Trade and Indus

8 March 1977 35p

Bulgaria's five-year plan

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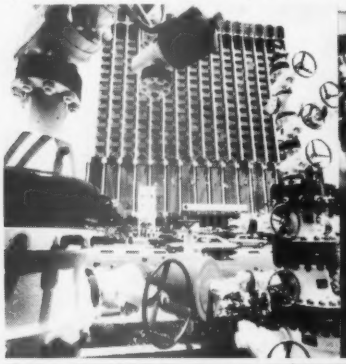

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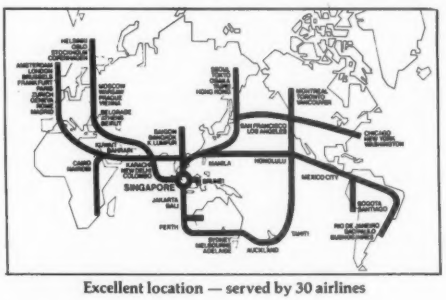
5 Sep 23 — Oct 2 : Singapore Fair '77
6 Oct 5-9 : International Exhibition of Materials Handling & Construction Machinery
7 Oct 31 — Nov 3: 6th Triennial Conference Of The Asian Association Of Management Organisation (AAMO)
8 Nov 7-11 : Machine Asia — South East Asian Production Machinery & Industrial Development Conference & Show
9 Dec 3-10 : World Wine Exposition



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Trade and Industry

18 March 1977

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Results of the sixth survey of short-term export prospects and a summary of Bulgaria's new five-year plan are among subjects of interest to exporters. Our cover was photographed by Bob Butler, of the Department of Industry's photo unit, from an attractive export display pack produced by Aldisplay Ltd and described in our export services feature.

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Trade and Industry this week

HOME

Review of British Leyland plan

Whatever happens in the British Leyland dispute, a review of the British Leyland plan will be needed, according to a statement issued by the Department of Industry on 15 March.

'The government welcomes the fact that British Leyland and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions have agreed on steps designed to end the dispute and hopes they will be successful,' the statement ran.

'The government will be reviewing the future of British Leyland in the light of the way the situation develops. Whatever happens, a review of the British Leyland plan will now be needed. How drastic it will be will depend on the speed with which full production is restored.'

British Aerospace projects must be viable

British Aerospace will have adequate funds to develop projects – but only economically viable ones. This was stated by Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, when addressing a meeting of aircraft workers in London on 15 March.

'No one need expect British Aerospace to have funds to make aeroplanes that look fine on the drawing board but cannot attract customers,' he said. 'As a nation we cannot afford this.

'British Aerospace will have adequate funds available to develop projects – alone in some cases, but in collaboration with other countries in most – which are economically viable, competitive and profitable.

'In that way we can and will harness the immense human and technological resources of this industry for the profit of the nation as a whole and in the interests of secure long-term employment.'

Within a couple of days, Mr Kaufman said, the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill would pass into law. 'The new corporation – British Aerospace – will come into being and next month the ownership of the four aircraft companies to be nationalised will pass from the private sector to the public sector.

'I have argued all through the long debates that public ownership, together with industrial democracy and the amalgamation of the industry's resources, will provide a framework in which the aircraft industry can realise its full potential.'

Mr Kaufman emphasised that, of itself, public ownership guarantees not a single job.

'It is orders and only orders that a great competitive manufacturing industry can live upon. Orders can be won only by offering what is needed, when it is needed, at a competitive price. That is what we have set up British Aerospace to do: to create the framework for a modern and independent British aircraft industry.'

Aircraft night noise strategy

Long-term strategy for reducing night noise disturbance around Heathrow and Gatwick airports is proposed by the government.

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, announced the publication of a consultative document on the subject in answer to a parliamentary question on 15 March.

'For several years', the minister said, 'my department has restricted night jet operations at Heathrow and Gatwick. The number of permitted night flights has been settled annually for each coming season and the restrictions gradually tightened in accordance with the government's policy of progressively reducing night noise disturbance around the two airports.

'It is my intention to replace this process of annual decision-making with a long-term strategy for the reduction of night noise disturbance, thus giving local people some assurance about the future and providing the industry with a basis for planning and shaping its operations. I am sending out today a consultative document seeking the views of all concerned in order to help me reach a decision on the strategy to be adopted.

'This document reviews the present state of knowledge on the relationship between noise and sleep disturbance in order to identify typical thresholds of disturbance; it then compares these thresholds with the performance of aircraft currently in service at Heathrow and Gatwick.

'The evidence appears to show that a substantial reduction in night noise disturbance can basically only be achieved either by continued reductions in the number of permitted night flights leading to closure or by gradually phasing out night flights by the noisier aircraft but allowing the quieter ones to continue. Views are also sought on the hours of restriction, the possibility of relating airport charges at night to noise disturbance and on the introduction of a system of night runway alternation at Heathrow.'

The document is being sent to members of parliament, local authorities, amenity groups, representatives of the air transport industry and other interested bodies, who have until the middle of May to comment.

Opticians to show frame prices

Opticians are to be urged by their professional organisations to display – inside their premises – the prices of spectacle frames which are on offer.

This is a result of consultations with the profession by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, following the Price Commission's report on the supply of private spectacles.

But agreement has not been reached that prices will be shown also in opticians' shop windows. Mr Hattersley said in answer to a parliamentary question on 15 March that he had told representatives of the opticians and the General Optical Council that he regretted their unwillingness to modify rules forbidding shop-window display of prices.

Opticians wished patients to have a free choice of practitioner, but did not consider it to be consistent with the standards of the profession or the interest of patients for opticians to compete with each other for custom.

'While fully accepting the optician's responsibilities as a clinician I pointed out that alongside the purely ophthalmic professional aspects of eye-care there exists another element – the marketing of spectacle frames, involving fashion and consumer choice,' Mr Hattersley said.

The Price Commission recommended that

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opticians should stock and display the full range of NHS frames. Professional organisations had encouraged members to do so – and had been prepared to take action in any case of complaint. It seemed clear however that further steps were needed, and the health departments would be pursuing with the profession the desirability of making this part of their terms of service with the NHS.

Professional organisations had agreed to recommend that bills should show the total amount to be paid, sub-divided into the NHS charge for lenses and the charge for the appliance.

No decision had yet been reached by health ministers about the extension of the NHS range of spectacle frames, in view of likely expenditure.

'I welcome the new arrangements which I believe do much to strike the balance between the proper maintenance of professional standards and concern for the interests of the patient as a consumer,' Mr Hattersley said.

Retail price index increase

Over the three and 12 months to January 1977 the retail price index increased by 5.4 per cent and 16.6 per cent respectively.

Answering parliamentary questions on 14 March, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection Roy Hattersley said that these figures brought the increase since February 1974 to 69.5 per cent. The three-month annualised figure was 21.8 per cent, he explained.

Mr Hattersley also said that over the six months to January 1977 the year-on-year rate of inflation in the UK had increased from 12.9 per cent to 16.6 per cent. Exactly comparable information for other EEC member states was not available but, to December, the average rate of inflation for these countries was similarly on an upward trend.

Local company to occupy Cumbria factory

An advance factory of 450m² (5,000 sq ft) built by the English Industrial Estates Corporation for the Development Commission at Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, is to be occupied by a local firm, Heredities Ltd.

The company, which began operations in Kirkby Stephen in 1969, reproduces works of art by leading international sculptors in cold cast bronze.

Heredities currently employs 45 people, and increasing orders from home and overseas has brought an urgent demand for extra production space. A further 23 people are expected to be employed.

Chrysler wins £3m contract

Chrysler United Kingdom has won a contract with the Post Office to supply the postal services division with 1,300 Dodge Spacevans worth nearly £3 million.

The vans will all be fitted with the Perkins 4.108 (1.75 litre) diesel engine, Chrysler's own four-speed gearbox, and sliding doors.

These vehicles will be built at the Dodge truck plant at Dunstable, and will be delivered painted in the familiar postal red with Royal Mail insignia.

See also 'Public expenditure on Chrysler UK', page 690.

OVERSEAS

Caracas fair opens

Britain's biggest 1977 selling venture overseas, the British industrial exhibition in Caracas, was opened by the Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, on 14 March in the presence of the president of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez.

Sponsored by the BOTB in conjunction with Canning House, the exhibition, with 225 UK firms involved, is the most ambitious in size and scope ever to be staged by a foreign country in Venezuela. It comes at a time when the country is preparing to take many decisions about the future investment of its oil wealth as part of the £28,000 million five-year national plan which was launched last year.

Britain's exports to Venezuela have increased by volume three times in the last three years to £120 million and the country is now second only to Brazil as Britain's top market in Latin America.

Among the exhibits are half an underground carriage, two buses, a mobile crane capable of lifting 18 tons, a 4m carpet-tufting machine, and some of the world's largest road construction equipment.

Top Austrians visit Britain

Five senior representatives of the Austrian state-owned petrochemical and related industries are in Britain this week as guests of the government.

The group, led by Philipp von Schoeller, a partner in Bankhaus Schoeller and Gebruder Schoeller, includes Ludwig Bauer, chairman of the Austrian state-owned oil company Osterreichische Mineralölverwaltungs (OMV), Dr Josef Kellermair, executive director of Chemie Linz, Kurt Kirchner, managing director of Simmering-Graz-Pauker, the heavy engineering concern, and Heribert Apfalter, executive vice-president of Vöest Alpine, the national iron and steel company.

The delegation is studying the development of the UK gas, petroleum and petrochemical industry and its impact on western Europe. The possibility of industrial co-operation between UK and Austrian firms both in Britain and in third countries has also been discussed. The group are meeting top UK industrialists as well as ministers from the Departments of Energy and Industry.

EUROPE

Food industry talks

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, John Silkin intends to meet representatives of the food industry, including ice cream manufacturers, to discuss the commission's draft regulation on the exclusive use of dairy fats in certain food products, today (18 March).

In reply to a parliamentary question on 14 March Mr Silkin said the effects of draft regulation could not be fully evaluated until the proposals had been clarified in Brussels. Manufacturers of ice cream and other foods affected and consumer organisations were supplying his department with information and views on the commission's proposals.

The draft regulation forms part of the community agricultural proposals which were debated in the House of Commons on 16 March.

TECHNOLOGY

Dounreay reactor to close

The small experimental Dounreay fast reactor (DFR) is to be closed at a ceremony to be performed by Lord Hinton of Bankside, next week (on 23 March).

DFR came into operation in 1959. Its main purpose has been to develop the technology of fast reactors and to serve as an irradiation testing reactor for advanced fuels and reactor components. This role will now be assumed by the larger, 250MW prototype fast reactor at Dounreay, which came into operation in 1974 and has been supplying electricity to the grid regularly since 1975.

The UK Atomic Energy Authority's intention to close DFR this year, on the completion of its experimental programme, was announced in 1975. Employees and their trades union representatives have been fully consulted about the effects of the closure of DFR and about the progressive redeployment of workers on DFR to other important work within the authority's programme. The closure will not lead to any redundancies.

West Germany

A special report on this very important European market will be published in *Trade and Industry* on 1 April.

Home news

'IDC control must continue' – Alan Williams

To abandon Industrial Development Certificate control is just not on, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said in Birmingham on 14 March. He told a conference on regional economic problems and policies at the University of Aston that the government was under pressure from some industrialists to abandon IDC control: 'I will not equivocate. It is just not on.

'To abandon IDC control,' Mr Williams said, 'would be effectively to abandon regional policy. Anyone who looks at the magnitude of the problems that face Merseyside, the north of England, parts of Scotland and Wales will appreciate why the government must give highest priority to preserving an effective regional policy. Many people criticise regional policy because at the moment it is failing to create many new jobs. In the context of a recession there is very little new mobile industry available. But it is in an upturn that regional policy begins to bite.

'At present like most of western Europe we are experiencing unprecedented levels of unemployment for the post-war years. This wave of unemployment which has swept across our country like others, temporarily obliterates the long-term distinction between the assisted areas and the rest of the country. But as world trade picks up, and as the tide of unemployment recedes, then the long standing peaks of unemployment will be seen more clearly. To abandon IDC control now would mean that these areas would miss the next period of growth. It would mean that too much growth would, as in the past, go to those areas which lack the skilled manpower and the labour reserves to sustain these industries in a period of growth.

'That is not to say that in the trough of the recession that we cannot exercise the IDC policy flexibly to help areas of high unemployment which are outside the assisted areas. But there is all the difference in the world between operating the policy flexibly and abandoning it altogether.'

Lessons of the fifties and sixties

'Those who argue that we should abandon the policy in order to get greater industrial efficiency, seem to have forgotten all the lessons of the fifties and sixties. Then time and again as the country went for growth, long before we got on to a permanent growth pattern, the already congested, already prosperous areas frustrated that growth because of the lack of manpower and particularly because of the lack of skilled manpower.

'Already there are ominous signs of scarcity of skilled labour,' said Mr Williams. 'The government has massively increased the number of people being trained. But it is imperative if we are to maximise our national growth in the next decade that we plan to use the reservoirs of labour that already exist in the development and special development areas.'

Aid for West Midlands

'It is a mistake to assume a conflict between assisted areas and non-assisted areas,' stressed Mr Williams. 'If the assisted areas decline, the non-assisted areas will follow. No one can say that the government has done nothing to help the West Midlands, and our regional policies and the assistance given to help relieve the appalling problems in large parts of the assisted areas need to be considered against this background.'

Mr Williams went on to outline how the West Midlands has benefited more than most from national industrial policies: government support for British Leyland, Rolls Royce, Chrysler (UK), and Alfred Herbert has preserved tens of thousands of jobs in companies concerned and their suppliers; under the accelerated projects scheme, £8.5 million has been offered to 24 projects in the West Midlands out of a total of 120. This means that the West Midlands, which has 13 per cent of all UK manufacturing industry, has 20 per cent of the projects under the scheme. These will bring forward investment of about £75 million and create some 3,600 new jobs; of 31 applications received so far under the new selective investment scheme, seven come from the West Midlands; under the sectoral industry schemes, assistance of over £11 million has been approved so far, mainly for the ferrous foundry scheme. The 64 assisted projects should create some 650 new jobs and safeguard many more. West Midlands should also do well from the new scheme for non-ferrous foundries.

Industry Act assistance: interest rates reduced

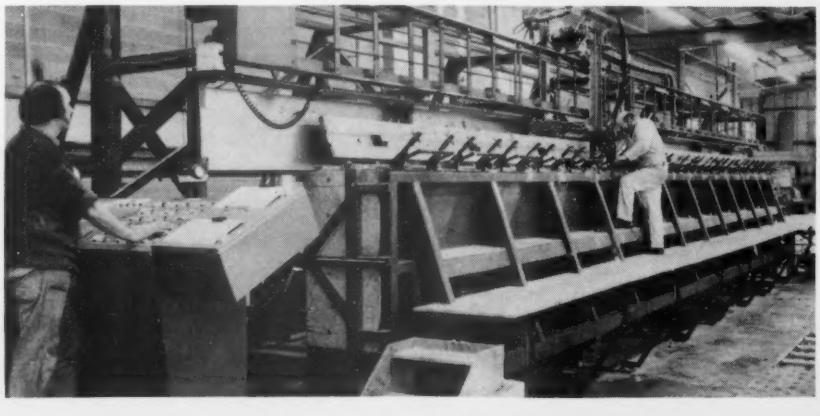
The maximum rate of interest relief grant and interest rates for loans under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 have been reduced with effect from 14 March.

The rate of interest relief grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest free period on a Department of Industry loan – but where firms obtain their finance from other sources – has been reduced from 14½ per cent to 14 per cent for each interest free year.

The 'concessionary' rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects (category A) has been reduced from 11½ per cent to 11 per cent. The 'broadly commercial' rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects not providing additional employment (category B) is reduced from 14½ per cent to 14 per cent.

New plant at Merseyside factory

New vertical lamination plant at the Prescot, Merseyside, factory of C. Hemmings and Co. Ltd. The new machine is enabling the company to enlarge its range of Hemsec Super Panel cold store insulation panels. Hemmings developed the Hemsec panel system three years ago, based on a core of Suprafroth (a product of ICI), foamed between cladding sheets of plastics-coated mild steel.



Applications for investment grant

The Department of Industry has accepted since 1 January 1977 applications for investment grant in respect of capital expenditure incurred in the period 1 July to 30 September 1976. These applications have been payable from 1 January 1977.

The department now announces that applications in respect of the following quarter, 1 October to 31 December 1976, will be accepted from 1 April 1977 and that payment on such applications, after approval, will begin from that date.

Investment grant is payable on expenditure incurred after 26 October 1970 only where it arises under a contract entered into by that date. Applications should be made to the department on the appropriate form, accompanied by form IG/32 (or form IG/33 for ships) and relevant evidence of contract.

Closing dates

The department reminds applicants that, by virtue of the Investment Grants Termination (No. 6) Order 1976 and of the direction made under it on 9 February 1976, no investment grant will be made in respect of expenditure incurred in the period 1 July to 30 September 1975 unless application on the appropriate form and accompanied by a report by an independent accountant is made to the Department of Industry before 1 April 1977. Applicants should ensure that they have duly completed the appropriate form and forwarded it to the reporting accountant in sufficient time to enable him to examine and report on it and for the documents to be received by one of the grants offices not later than 31 March 1977.

Applications relating to expenditure incurred during the following periods should be made by the dates specified:

Expenditure incurred	Date before which application must be made
1 October 1975-31 December 1975	1 July 1977
1 January 1976-31 March 1976	1 October 1977

By virtue of the Investment Grants Termination (No. 7) Order 1977 and the direction made under it on 7 February 1977 applications relating to expenditure incurred during the following periods should be made by the dates specified:

Expenditure incurred	Date before which application must be made
1 April 1976-30 June 1976	1 January 1978
1 July 1976-30 September 1976	1 April 1978
1 October 1976-31 December 1976	1 July 1978
1 January 1977-31 March 1977	1 October 1978

Firms contemplating applying for investment grants towards expenditure incurred on the production of prototypes must also comply with all the requirements as to the making of applications by specified terminal dates. Special considerations may affect this type of application and if firms foresee difficulty in meeting these requirements they should seek guidance from the appropriate office.

Guidance on the preparation of forms may be obtained from the appropriate office. The addresses of the offices are:

Department of Industry, Regional Development Grants Office,

Queensway House, West Precinct, Town Centre, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 2NF, tel. (0642) 553671, telex 58608.

St Peter's House, Stanley Precinct, Bootle, Merseyside L20 3LZ, tel. 051-922 4030, telex 627162.

24/26 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1SY, tel. (0222) 492611, telex 49538.

Magnet House, Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 7BT, tel. 041-221 9833, telex 77611.

Forms for ships, hovercraft and computers are available from the Department of Industry, Regional Development Grants Division, Room 2722, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-211 5518, telex 918829.

Swansea advance factory allocated

Thyssen (Great Britain) Ltd of Llanelli has been allocated the Welsh Development Agency's 2,322m² No 2 advance factory at Landore, Swansea.

About 100 new jobs, most of them for males, will be created by Thyssen's expansion project over the next three years.

The project will involve the production of cold rolled lightweight structural steel components and pressings which are required for the Trusteel industrialised building system recently acquired by Thyssen from Skerne Engineering Ltd of Darlington. The company is hoping to begin production as soon as possible and will initially be concentrating on Middle East markets and Nigeria.

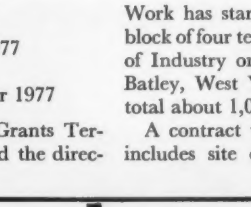
Thyssen (Great Britain) Ltd is a subsidiary of Thyssen Schachtbau GmbH, West Germany, and was established in 1954. The company has interests in mining, civil engineering and building projects and currently employs almost 3,000 workers in the UK, over 1,100 of them at Llanelli.

Terrace unit factories at Batley

Work has started on an advance factory, a block of four terrace units, for the Department of Industry on a new site in Talbot Road, Batley, West Yorkshire. The four units will total about 1,000m² (11,000 sq ft).

A contract worth about £130,000, which includes site development works has been awarded to J. Wimpenny and Co Ltd.

The premises should be ready for occupation by September. Inquiries regarding lease should be made to: Regional Director, Department of Industry, Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds, tel. Leeds (0532) 443171.



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Cornwall, England.
(Please quote T.I.)

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References to monopolies commission

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided to refer the proposed acquisition by Sketchley Ltd of Johnson Group Cleaners Ltd to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973. The commission is required to make its report within five months.

Mr Hattersley has also decided to refer the proposed acquisition by Associated Engineering Ltd of Serck Ltd to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report under the provisions of the act. The commission must report within five months.

In both cases, the decision to make a reference to the commission does not in any way pre-judge the question whether or not the merger concerned is contrary to the public interest. It is for the commission to report on this after investigation.

Clearance of merger proposals

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Sears Holdings Ltd and Silcock and Colling Ltd

CH Industrials Ltd and The Beaver Group Ltd

Charterhouse Japhet Ltd and The Atlantic Shipping and Trading Co Ltd.

Norwest Holst – inspectors appointed

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed Mr L. J. Davies, QC, of 2 Crown Office Row, Temple, EC4 and Mr T. G. Harding, FCA, of 28 Ely Place, London EC1, under section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948, as amended, as inspectors to investigate and report on the affairs of Norwest Holst Ltd.

MV 'Lindenbank' – formal investigation

The public formal investigation into the circumstances surrounding the loss of the cargo vessel *Lindenbank* will open at 10.30 am on Monday, 21 March, at 116-119 Pall Mall (formerly the United Services Club).

The Wreck Commissioner will be Peter Bucknill, QC.

Insurance Companies Act 1974: authorisations and revocations

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were issued by the Secretary of State for Trade under section 3(1) of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 February to 28 February 1977.

Name of insurer registered office or address in Great Britain	Country of incorporation if outside Great Britain	Date of authorisation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was issued
Assurances du Groupe de Paris, Risques Divers c/o Royal Insurance Group 7 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1LH	France	11.2.77	PROP, PL, MAT

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were revoked by the Secretary of State for Trade under section 9 of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 February to 28 February 1977.

Name of insurer registered office or address in Great Britain	Country of incorporation if outside Great Britain	Date of revocation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was revoked
*Hambro Life Annuities Assurance Limited 51 Bishopsgate London EC2	—	24.2.77	OLT
*Hambro Life Pensions Assurance Limited 51 Bishopsgate London EC2	—	24.2.77	OLT

* Was permitted only to insure either a limited class of persons or a limited category of risks of the class.

Classes of business

I	Industrial assurance business
LIAB	Liability insurance business
MAT	Marine, aviation and transport insurance business
MV	Motor vehicle insurance business
OLT	Ordinary long term insurance business
PL	Pecuniary loss insurance business
PA	Personal accident insurance business
PROP	Property insurance business

Trainees prepare to take action in an 'emergency' at a nuclear power station. Fortunately, the 'fault' was produced by their instructor (left) from his control panel on this detailed simulator of Britain's prototype fast reactor. The PFR simulator – produced by Redifon Computers Ltd, Crawley – allows operators to practise both routine and emergency procedures that would be impractical using 'live' plant. The equipment provides training facilities for supervisors and operators at the site and forms an important part of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's reactor training school programme. It can also be used for scientific study of the plant and control system and to aid the development and testing of operating performance.

BNOC to be operator in two more North Sea blocks

The British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) is to be the operator in two further blocks in the North Sea.

This was announced on 10 March by Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, in reply to a parliamentary question from Ian Campbell (Dunbartonshire West) who asked whether in fifth round licences the BNOC would have the role of operator in any blocks other than those mentioned in the statement of 9 February.

Dr Mabon said:

'When my rt hon friend announced the allocation of conditional offers of licences on 9 February in the House, I said that the British National Oil Corporation would, by agreement in each case with their co-licensees, be the operator in four blocks. I am pleased to say that since then the corporation has agreed with the request of another group of prospective co-licensees that the corporation should be operator in two further blocks, numbers 14/16 and 14/17. The companies are:

Canadian Industrial Gas (UK) Ltd
Charter Consolidated (UK Offshore Oil Exploration)
Charterhouse Petroleum Development
Home Oil Co Ltd
Tricentrol North Sea Ltd.'

Big coal-reserves find in Warwickshire

NCB exploration in Warwickshire has proved the existence of more than 200 million tons of workable coal in an area west of Coventry city and north of Kenilworth. Considerable reserves accessible from Daw Mill and Coventry collieries could help to boost the combined production of the two pits from the present 1¾ million tons to nearly 3½ million tons a year.

Task force to recruit skilled workers

A special task force to organise the training of new, skilled workers has been set up by the Manpower Services Commission. The group includes representatives of the TUC, the CBI, education bodies, industrial training boards, and the MSC's own Training Services Agency.

The formation of the new task force follows publication by the government last July of a consultative document on skilled-worker training problems. The document drew views and ideas from nearly 500 organisations representing more than half the national work force. The task force is headed by MSC chairman, Richard O'Brien.

Hawker Siddeley's prototype Coastguarder, the latest development of the highly successful HS 748, made its first flight 10 days ahead of schedule. Operated by a crew of five, the aircraft is designed for surface surveillance, off-shore oilfield patrol, fishery protection and search and rescue.

Striking the right balance on prices

'Some critics, who objected to the inflexibility of the existing price code, are now worried by the alleged vagueness and uncertainty of our new proposals,' said Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 11 March. He was speaking in Deal at a meeting organised by the Fair Deal Consumer Group.

Mr Maclennan stressed the government's belief that 'wide criteria are inherent in any system of price controls that is sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of both industry and the consumer.

'The essence of this flexibility lies in the criteria – to be enshrined in the new legislation – which will in future guide the Price Commission in conducting investigations into particular prices and the secretary of state in acting on the commission's reports. The criteria will lay down the broad guidelines to be followed and put an end to the rigid and mechanical formulae of the price code.

'This is not to decry the code,' said Mr Maclennan. 'In its day it did a good job. But its rigidity means that it cannot over a long period reflect the changing realities of the market place or the differing circumstances between firms. Nor can ordinary people understand its 150 paragraphs. Furthermore, its mechanical rules have meant that firms have been entitled to price increases which could not have been justified if other non-code factors had been taken into account. The faults were of less importance in the early days of the code, but the time has now come for a change.

'We need a system of controls to produce fast and effective action against prices and price increases which constitute an abuse of market power. The new prices policy will ensure that this happens because it is designed to act speedily in those areas which give rise to public concern.

'At the same time, the criteria underpinning the policy are flexible enough to ensure that firms can raise the money they need for investment. Consumers and employees are two sides of the same coin and so in the long term it is in their interest for firms to maintain an adequate level of investment. Moreover, investment is often needed to reduce the costs of producing goods or to improve their quality.

'How do the criteria relate to the needs of the consumer? Firstly, they lay down that firms should be encouraged to reduce costs and they make it very clear that the consumer must share in the resulting benefits.

'Secondly, the maintenance of quality and the satisfaction of changing consumer demands for goods and services is to be of prime importance. In other words, the Price Commission and the secretary of state must take account of the need for people getting "value for money". Thirdly, they are to promote competition between firms as a means of ensuring price stability. Where competition is inadequate, they must act to protect the consumer against abuses of market power.

'To reinforce the consumer aspects of our new policy, we want consumers to be represented on the Price Commission. The secretary of state has made clear that he hopes to appoint a representative of the ordinary consumer to the new commission. We have received scores of applications from ordinary members of the public to sit on the commission. Although we cannot appoint them all, I think it demonstrates very clearly the level of public interest in the new policy.

'I hope, too, that the public continues to show the same interest once the new policy is under way. Certainly consumer representatives will be able to make their views known to the Price Commission whenever it is investigating particular prices or firms. The government will do all it can to encourage this. Moreover, public complaints about prices or price increases will be an important source of information to the Price Commission about prices which might be considered for investigation.

'Our proposals, therefore, offer a fair balance – to be enshrined in statutory form in the new criteria – between industry and the consumer. For industry they offer the chance to break free from the more rigid features of the price code and the associated administrative burden and make higher profits where they are needed to support investment. For the consumer, the policy offers not only protection against particular cases of abuse of market power but the chance for the consumer to understand the policy and participate in its operation.'

Price Commission interventions during February

During February the Price Commission rejected three notifications of price increases from manufacturing and service companies all in category II. In another 12 cases covering both categories I and II the companies concerned withdrew their notification of intended increases and in 38 cases the extent of the increases was reduced by the commission. See lists below.

During February, following discussions with the Price Commission, one distributor in category II agreed to make price reductions amounting to £0.15 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits as revealed in its periodic returns.

Following inspection of records kept by enterprises in category III, the commission's regional offices secured the agreement of 140 distributors, 13 manufacturers, four service enterprises, five professional enterprises and five construction enterprises to make price reductions amounting to £4.26 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the regional offices secured a total of 118 individual voluntary price reductions following investigation or complaints about prices increases.

Notes

The Price Commission may intervene to reject or modify notifications submitted by category I and II enterprises at any time during or after the 28-day period which must elapse before the increase can be implemented.

Announcements about price increases where the Price Commission has not intervened are the responsibility of the company imposing the increase. The inclusion of an item in the lists of rejections or withdrawals does not preclude subsequent re-submission.

In some cases a company may submit single price increase notification involving a range of products. If some items within the range are subject to intervention, the whole notification, for statistical purposes, is treated as a modification.

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category II		
Edgar Allen Foundry Ltd	Steel castings	10.90
	Steel castings	10.90
MacBrayne Haulage Ltd	Road haulage services	8.62

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Associated Biscuits Ltd	Biscuits (non-seasonal range)	Not quantified
Grand Metropolitan Hotels Ltd	Food and drink tariffs	12.50
Laporte Industries Ltd	Ditertiary butyl peroxide	6.80
Spillers-French Milling Ltd	Bakers' flours	3.87
Category II		
Isaac Andrews and Sons Ltd	Bakers' flour products	5.34
Bestobell Paints Ltd	Decorative paints, industrial paints and wood preservatives	4.83
Copperad Ltd	Force and natural draught heat emitters, refrigerating and air conditioning equipment	7.60
Heygates Ltd	Bakers' flour	5.05
Intec Ltd	Fluid transfer and filtration equipment	1.41
International Synthetic Rubber Co Ltd	Synthetic rubber	4.80
L.R. Industries Ltd	Contraceptive sheaths	4.29
Pfizer Ltd	Itatonic acid	4.10

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	% increase after modification
Category I			
Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd	Cement, OPC/RH	3.47	3.26*
	Special cement	7.09	6.66
Birmingham Aluminium Casting (1903) Co Ltd	Light alloy castings	3.84	3.83
The British Aluminium Co Ltd	Aluminium semi-manufactures	7.60	7.20
Duraflex Housecraft Ltd	Louvres, draught excluders, patio doors, double glazing replacement windows, etc.	7.32	7.05
Enfield Rolling Mills Ltd	Resistance welding electrodes	7.90	7.84
Ever Ready Co (GB) Ltd	Dry (primary) batteries and related flashlight cases	1.82	1.48
Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Co (GB) Ltd	Industrial hose	3.68	3.53
	Tyres, tubes and wheels (original equipment)	12.06	8.50
Home Insulation Ltd	Double glazing	24.50	18.50
Indalex Ltd	Aluminium extrusions	8.54	8.53
Rubert Owen Conveyancer Ltd	Fork truck spares	10.21	9.93
Rugby Portland Cement Co Ltd	Cement, OPC/RH	3.47	3.26*
Satchwell Control Systems Ltd	Temperature detectors and controllers, actuators and valves	3.94	1.51
	Temperature detectors and controllers, actuators and valves	12.68	11.84
Category II			
Aberthaw & Bristol Channel Portland Cement Co Ltd	Cement, OPC/RH	3.47	3.26*
Alcoa Manufacturing (GB) Ltd	Rolled and extruded products	8.45	8.33
Antler Ltd	Luggage and travel goods	11.43	9.66
Armstrong Patents Co Ltd	Shock absorbers, struts, silencers and automotive components	3.16	3.14
T. W. Beach & Sons Ltd	Mincemeat	33.94	32.78
Bestobell Home Products Ltd	Roller blinds	12.93	12.40
Champion Associated Weavers Ltd	Axminster and tufted carpets	7.04	6.20
Heygate & Sons Ltd	Animal feedingstuffs	3.80	3.47
Wm Jackson & Sons Ltd	Flour confectionery	7.08	6.78
H. & R. Johnson – Richards Tiles Ltd	Ceramic tiles	8.78	7.02
Ketton Portland Cement Co Ltd	Cement, OPC/RH	3.47	3.26*
Laconite Ltd	Decorative boards and panels	12.32	12.25
Lockwoods Foods Ltd	Canned fruit and vegetables	4.32	4.25
Ribblesdale Cement Ltd	Cement, OPC/RH	3.47	3.26*
Rovex Ltd	Dolls and toys	16.50	16.20
St Albans Rubber Co Ltd	Sponge rubber mouldings and sheetings	14.00	10.20
Sadler & Co Ltd	Bulk liquid haulage	7.94	6.47
Spring Food Products Ltd	Orange marmalade and orange 'MaMade'	18.70	18.60
Starch Products Ltd	Starch derivatives and adhesives	12.02	11.26
Sterling Winthrop Group Ltd	'Zal' disinfecting dustbin powder	15.83	7.93
Tunnel Cement Ltd	Cement, OPC/RH	3.47	3.26*
Witworths Holdings Ltd	Breakfast oats	14.29	13.71
Zerolit Ltd	Hydrocarbon beads	26.92	25.78

* Weighted average under para 65(1).

Government Publications in the North

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'Prices policy needed to prevent exploitation of market power'

'While it is essential to maintain a general restraint on price increases and profits when the income of almost every household is similarly being restrained through pay policy, it does not follow that this is the only reason for price controls,' Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said on 10 March. He was speaking at an open forum in Grimsby organised by the Consumer Association of South Humberside.

Mr Maclennan continued: 'Our proposed price control powers have been criticised on the grounds that it is wrong to provide for a permanent prices policy when pay restraint is negotiated from year to year. I reject this thesis. The sort of prices policy which has often accompanied pay policy in the past has been an attempt to reduce the general price level by legislation which squeezes all companies' profit margins. Experience has shown that a significant cut in the general price level cannot be achieved in this way without a real cost in lower investment and higher unemployment.

'Our new prices policy is intended to harmonise more closely with other economic objectives – the encouragement of investment, the promotion of industrial efficiency, the stimulation of competition and the proper allocation of resources. It will thus have valid economic objectives independent of the existence of a pay policy.

'Despite what is sometimes said there is nothing unusual about modern governments or government agencies possessing powers to intervene on prices. Such powers are commonplace in western Europe and in other industrialised countries, to a point where the local business communities spend less time inveighing against them and more in encompassing them in their business strategies.

'The link between prices policy and competition policy is especially important. The concentration of a large proportion of industrial production in a relatively small number of firms is a fact of life. Larger manufacturing units may in some cases produce economies of scale which benefit the community as a whole. In other cases the resources to fund large investment projects or to compete on equal terms with overseas rivals can be found only in very large enterprises. As a result, we have roughly 40 per cent of net manufacturing output concentrated in about 100 top firms. In 1972 about a quarter of all manufacturing sectors were concentrated to the extent that five firms accounted for more than 70 per cent of gross output in each sector. Even in the food and drink manufacturing sector, which is fiercely competitive in many respects, there are some 50 well-known products on which a single firm holds more than 40 per cent of the market.

'These circumstances also bring about opportunities for firms to limit competition and exploit their market power. Even where there is no clear monopoly in an industry, sophisticated technology gives considerable scope for product specialisation within the industry; many sophisticated consumer products can be serviced, or have spare parts supplied, only by the firms which manufactured them; heavy advertising can be used to keep competitors out of the market; and nationally-based firms can adjust their marketing strategies in different regions to limit the growth of local competitors. As regards pricing itself, uncompetitive pricing is not confined to pure monopolies. Where a market is dominated by a small number of firms, practices such as parallel pricing and price leadership are likely to occur. The Monopolies Commission report on parallel pricing mentions over 50 industries in respect of which complaints about parallel pricing were received.

'In its monopoly investigations the monopolies commission has on many occasions concluded that the appropriate course for dealing with a monopoly situation is not to break up the monopoly but to maintain long-term surveillance over prices or profits – examples of industries on which such action has been taken are detergents, breakfast cereals, colour films, contraceptive sheaths, chemical fertilisers, clutch mechanisms and electrical equipment for vehicles.

'I find it difficult, therefore, to understand how it is possible to argue that the market is always sufficient to keep prices down. Our new prices policy recognises the reality of imperfect – and sometimes extremely weak – competition in many sectors of a modern industrial economy. One of its main purposes will be to examine pricing behaviour in uncompetitive sectors and to seek either to stimulate competitive pricing or, where the economic realities make keen competition impracticable, to protect the consumer against abuse of market power.

'Lack of competition sometimes leads not to excessive profits but to unnecessarily high costs because of inefficiency or other avoidable factors. Consumer groups have, for example, criticised unnecessarily high packaging costs in some cases. The Price Commission will be able to look behind cost levels in their investigations, rather than simply accepting them as is required under the present price code.

'I believe the logic of this justification for investigations and follow-up action on particular price increases or sectors of the economy would be privately accepted by many industrialists. Indeed some of the complaints my department and the Price Commission receive about price increases are from within industry itself, when companies find themselves as captive customers on the receiving end of price increases imposed by monopoly suppliers.

'I hope this analysis will serve to emphasise that competitive enterprises which are responsible in their pricing behaviour have nothing to fear from our proposals, especially if they are at the same time looking for opportunities for more investment and more exports in order to provide more jobs. But it is clear that prices policy has a job to do in a complex and imperfectly competitive industrial and commercial framework, and we believe that our proposals will enable this job to be done more effectively, to the benefit both of industrial regeneration and of the interests of consumers, in the future.'

OFT report stresses importance of fair competition

In his first report as director general of Fair Trading, Gordon Borrie stresses the role of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) in the maintenance of fair competition and the importance of competition for consumer protection. In the report* published on 10 March, Mr Borrie says: 'All too often the public thinks of consumer matters as what happens between the shopper and shop keeper. But real consumer protection is a good deal broader based than this.

'The competition policy side of the Office of Fair Trading's activities is concerned with the structure, behaviour and performance of trade and industry in the UK and so has a direct effect on the purchasing power of nearly every individual in this country. It would be quite wrong to think of the two main aspects of OFT's activities – competition policy and consumer protection – as separate entities.'

During 1976 the OFT's scrutiny of restrictive trading agreements was extended by legislation to cover commercial services. Mr Borrie says: 'Consumer interest is an important factor in our work concerning restrictive practices. One of the tests we apply when considering agreements between firms is the effect they have on customers – whether traders or consumers. It is basic to the whole concept of competition policy that there should be no secret restraints on competition. Public examination is the keynote and any parties to an agreement must be prepared to justify it.'

The number of mergers examined by the OFT rose to 171 in 1976 – 157 were examined in 1975. Commenting on his role as adviser to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection on whether or not significant mergers should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Mr Borrie says: 'All matters of public interest are considered including the need to maintain and promote competition, the interest of purchasers and suppliers, effects on employment, efficiency and the balance of payments. Particular attention is being given to the relationship of a merger with the government's industrial strategy and the extent to which it might improve the competitiveness of British industry. There may be other points in par-

* 'Annual Report of the Director General of Fair Trading 1976', HMSO, price £1.65.

ticular cases, such as possible asset stripping or tax avoidance.'

Mr Borrie emphasises his desire to conduct the work of the OFT in the public eye – 'I shall continue to explain the policies and philosophies of the office and to speak openly and clearly. I am concerned about the lack of progress in the implementation during 1976 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974.' The director general explained that many traders were late in submitting applications for licences and this delayed the first stage of the three-stage licensing programme. While agreeing that time must be allowed for proper consultation on the drafting of regulations Mr Borrie said: 'Nevertheless, it is disappointing that more progress has not been made with this valuable piece of consumer protection legislation, particularly at a time when borrowing rates are high and strain on the public has been considerable.

'I hope that in 1977 my office, with the co-operation of trade, commerce, local authorities consumer interests and others concerned will be able to proceed with the efficient implementation of further regulations approved by parliament.'

Turning to the consumer affairs side of the office's activities Mr Borrie reports steady progress in obtaining written assurances about future conduct from traders who have persistently broken the criminal or civil law to the detriment of consumers. Assurances received in 1976 bring the total to 36.

Four more voluntary codes of practice were negotiated with trade associations during the year. 'We have continued to measure the effectiveness of codes and the results are encouraging,' says the director general.

'A code should remove abuses, promote higher standards, clarify areas of doubt and provide machinery for the proper handling of complaints. If a code is to work well the association responsible for it must be efficient, it must have a central body representative of its members and it must have the will and enthusiasm to be more than a self-protection organisation. We have enough evidence to show that there is a significant drop in complaints when a code has been in operation for some time and that when complaints are made they are dealt with satisfactorily. We shall continue to monitor codes and shall watch with interest the systems which trade associations and individual firms are devising to measure for themselves the effectiveness of their own codes.'

Public expenditure on Chrysler UK

The government reply to the eighth report from the Expenditure Committee 'Public expenditure on Chrysler UK Ltd' (HC 596-1) was published as a white paper on 10 March (Cmnd 6745, HMSO, 35p). In the reply the government welcomes the Expenditure Committee's report. For reasons indicated in the white paper the government believes that some of the general criticisms made by the committee are not sustained by the evidence but wholeheartedly welcomes 'the many constructive observations by the committee'.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the dates specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
8 February 1977		
1,329,898	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Apparatus for plotting adsorption-desorption isotherms
1,329,918	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in or relating to apparatus for the analysis of radio-active samples
1,332,402	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Improvements relating to thermopumps
1,333,458	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A device for the leak-tight assembly of a heat-exchanger shell
1,334,162	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Automatic alignment bearings for guiding in translational or rotational motion
1,335,271	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Radiovoltaic electricity generators
1,337,177	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in and relating to centrifuges
1,338,129	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Photometric analyzer
1,343,945	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in or relating to centrifuges bowls
1,190,547	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Improvements in electrical waveguide arrangements
1,234,746	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Electromagnetic relay
1,237,519	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Wiring dressing tool
1,239,893	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Improvements in or relating to photocathodes
1,317,371	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Socket connector
1,337,915	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Wiring dressing tool
1,376,414	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Improvements in or relating to electro acoustic transducers
1,407,811	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Electromagnetic relay
1,366,272	International Standard Electric Corporation	Piezoelectric voltage generator
1,386,523	International Standard Electric Corporation	Ringing trip circuit
1,398,056	International Standard Electric Corporation	Safety device for system including duplicated control items
1,417,325	International Standard Electric Corporation	Method of indicating slippage during data transmission
1,391,028	United States Energy Research and Development Administration	Method for preparation of biocompatible and biofunctional materials and products thereof
1,426,388	United States Energy Research and Development Administration	Isometric imaging system
1,202,911	Mercury Electronics (Scotland) Ltd	Improvements in and relating to pneumatachographic apparatus
1,300,254	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Apparatus for sorting individual sheets in accordance with control features thereon
1,402,421	H. G. Kippax and Sons Ltd	Improvements in or relating to printing apparatus
1,426,843	Societa Mineraria E Metallurgica di Pertusola SpA	A machine for casting metal balls
1,445,843	The North Western Electricity Board	Fencing of excavations
11 February 1977		
1,369,560	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for the preparation of alkyl benzenes
1,373,317	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for producing oxidation catalysts
1,375,330	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for the manufacture of concentrated aqueous solutions of hydrogen chloride
1,379,309	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Modified alkydresine compositions for paints and varnishes
1,380,096	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Improvements in compositions based on unsaturated polyester resins
1,451,931	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Fire screening panels
1,451,932	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Fire resistant panels
1,451,933	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Fire resistant panels
1,243,356	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	A process for the production of dispersions of sparingly soluble silver salts
1,396,791	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Photographic material
1,302,523	EMI Ltd	Improvements relating to aerial arrangements
1,427,731	EMI Ltd	Improvements in or relating to magnetic recording media and to methods for their production
1,211,563	Fulmer Research Institute Ltd	Improvements relating to aluminium-base alloys
1,332,210	Poclain	Improvements in or relating to mobile earth moving or load raising machines
1,391,565	William Thomas Sandey	Multi-storey building structure
1,405,534	Hans Viessmann	Improvements in or relating to boilers
1,420,075	Pritchard (Plastics) Ltd	Fluid-flow control valve
1,452,137	Hitachi Ltd	Correction lenses utilised to form fluorescent screens of colour picture tubes
17 February 1977		
1,107,899	Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd	Semiconductor controllable rectifier devices
1,156,777	Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd	Manufacture of semiconductor elements
1,267,345	Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd	Improvements to duty cycle control apparatus
1,294,683	Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd	Apparatus for testing fluid pressure equipment
1,333,667	Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd	Electrical fault location apparatus
1,253,823	Westinghouse Brake English Electric Semi-Conductors Ltd	Multi-terminal semiconductor devices
1,263,174	Westinghouse Brake English Electric Semi-Conductors Ltd	Semiconductor device
1,083,872	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Improved image producing photographic apparatus
1,268,003	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengessellschaft	Transmission holograms
967,985	Herbert Morris Ltd	Improvements in cranes and lifts
1,173,797	Teldix Gesellschaft mit beschrankter-Haftung	Single-row radial gas-bearing
1,447,769	Rabone Chesterman Ltd	Improvements relating to housings for reels

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

New products

High performance computer

British designed and manufactured computers are taken one stage further with the announcement of the GEC 4082. The GEC 4082 has a maximum directly addressable core store capability of one megabyte, and economically achieves its high computing power by a combination of interleaved stores, instruction pipelining, and overlapped processor/store operations. This new machine confirms the GEC commitment to high performance equipment and reinforces the ability of the GEC 4000 range to meet the interactive and batch requirements of research establishments, universities, polytechnics and other scientific multi-users.

First deliveries are scheduled for April. The core capacity of the GEC 4082 starts at 128 kilobytes and rises in 128 kilobytes increments to one megabyte (1024KB). To complement this two new backing store disc mechanisms, with capacities of 35 and 70 megabytes (up to 280 megabytes on one controller) are also announced. The new GEC 4082 is totally software compatible with the two existing GEC 4000 machines – GEC 4080 and GEC 4070 – and the entire range of GEC 4000 peripheral devices is applicable to the new introduction.

Further information: circle 157

Low volume ultra-pure water

'Nuclear grade' resins are available as part of a totally flexible modular range of water purification equipment, called Elgastat Spectrum. They are part of a new system of laboratory orientated equipment being launched by the Elga Group.

Elga have designed the Spectrum range to fulfil the diverse requirements of low volume ultra-pure water users. The interlocking units, which can be selected to satisfy individual applications and prevailing raw water conditions, are capable of flow rates up to 120 litres per hour in a quality of better than 10 megohms resistivity. Spectrum is so versatile that the components can be linked transversely or in a square formation, allowing them to fit conveniently into available space. The fully portable equipment is fitted with a conductivity meter which can be powered by mains or battery and it requires only a cold potable water supply.

The Elga cartridge exchange and regeneration system will apply to all of the Spectrum cartridges and this will include a replacement filter element service. When any of the cartridges become exhausted the operator will release it simply by turning and depressing a knob and lifting it free from its base. A spare cartridge will then be pressed into position and the locking device will reset automatically.

Further information: circle 158

Miniature enclosed relays

Miniature enclosed relays, manufactured to a high standard of quality and meeting the requirements of Post Office specification T 4551, have been introduced by Associated Automation Ltd. As Series CR 23, these relays are available with a wide variety of contact configurations, coil resistances and terminals.

Using 40:60 silver palladium alloy, the contacts are designed to handle power ratings of 50 watts maximum d.c. resistive loading, voltages to 100 volts d.c. maximum and currents to 1 ampere maximum while operate and release times are 100 milliseconds maximum. Available in two sizes, A and B, size A relays feature 2 Form C or 2 Form K springsets, size B relays feature 4 Form C, or 2 Form C plus 2 Form K or, 6 Form A or 6 Form B, all with minimum spring forces of 10g except Form K which has a minimum force of 7g.

The dielectric strength is 500 volts r.m.s. at 50Hz between all parts not electrically connected and the insulation resistance is 100 megohms. The relays have a permitted coil dissipation of 3 watts maximum at 20°C with nominal powers from 0.6 to 1.0 watt.

Further information: circle 159

Telephone calls monitored instantly

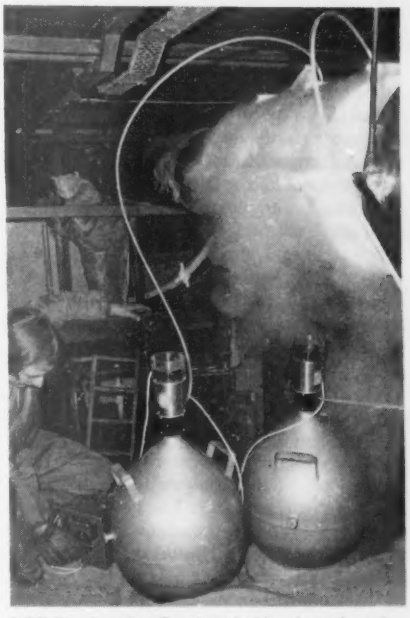
"How much is being spent on the telephone service, by whom, when, where and why?', can be answered as soon as a telephone call has been completed by a new feature offered to users of Minster Automation Ltd's TIGER telephone monitoring system. This Real Time Reporter feature consists of a keyboard and a printer and contains a cassette loader for a variety of programs.

Programs can be set and reset by the user for a selection of 10 different criteria. Among these are calls to selected areas or numbers, calls from selected extensions, calls above certain durations, incoming calls with excessive answering times and incoming unanswered calls, plus various permutations. An exchange line traffic analysing program details exchange line traffic use and loading on all exchange lines over a user specified period.

TIGER interfaces with a private automatic telephone exchange and uses a DEC PDP-8 minicomputer to encode complete call records on magnetic tape for processing on the users mainframe computer. Information gathered this way contains details on all incoming and outgoing calls, such as destination, duration, cost, originator, etc, although it does not record speech.

Further information: circle 160

Freezing pipes



BCB Pipefreezing Services Ltd has introduced a fully mobile on-site pipefreezing service. Carried out by highly trained engineers, the new pipefreezing service team is able to freeze safely virtually any pipe up to 16 in diameter, carrying water, oils, glycol brines and most other liquids, even under high pressure. BCB pipefreezing teams offer a 24-hour emergency service and are equipped to tackle a variety of jobs on site, from the removal of faulty valves, insertion of new branches or sections, to the modification or re-routing of high pressure large bore pipelines. By reducing maintenance and replacement time to a minimum, pipefreezing has many advantages including the ability to prevent the complete shutdown of systems, save large quantities of valuable liquid that would otherwise be contaminated or lost, or prevent a potentially dangerous situation arising when a sprinkler system is completely drained for maintenance purposes.

Further information: circle 161

Manlift

Safe access for men working on installation, maintenance and inspection at heights of up to 7.92m (26 ft) is provided by the Hy-Ryder vehicle mounted scissor Manlift work platform. It is designed for warehouse and factory use.

The 145cm (57¼ in) wide unit, slim enough to travel easily down narrow factory aisles and through standard width doors, can reach speeds of up to 9 mph. When not in use the Manlift stows away compactly collapsing to a third of its fully extended size. Fully extended the stable

107cm x 274cm platform will safely carry 340kg (750 lb) in weight. The two wheel all electric drive ensures personnel can move fast and efficiently from job to job.

Further information: circle 162

Miniclaimer for small foundries

Economic sand reclamation for small foundries is offered by the Newport 'Miniclaimer'. Introduced by Newport Forge and Engineering Ltd, the 'Miniclaimer' is designed for rates of sand consumption that may not justify investment in the much larger Newport-Segab range of full-scale sand reclamation plant. Multiple installations can be employed to serve small tonnage local user points in large foundries.

In its initial version, it is designed to give a throughput of two tonnes of reclaimed sand per hour which, at average usage rates for small foundries, is expected to allow repayment of capital costs within a period of about a year.

The unit, which is a single-motor, vibratory attrition reclaimer, introduces a new concept in machine configuration, devised to overcome centre-of-gravity and unequal vibration problems associated with single motor equipment. The design features an inverted vee construction allowing the motor to be fixed close to the CG of the machine, sand screening and delivery being carried out in twin base compartments.

To ease sand handling the 'Miniclaimer' has been conceived as a low-level machine, with a lip height of no more than 100cm (39 in), and can be fed by any method required, either manual or mechanical. The Newport 'Miniclaimer' is supplied complete with fan-powered pneumatic suction conveyor to deliver reclaimed sand, a classifier filtration unit with impact plate, and a five-tonne capacity sand storage tank.

Further information: circle 163

Low-cost generator

To meet the booming demand, particularly from Middle Eastern markets and Africa, for low cost, reliable and easy-to-operate generators, Dawson-Keith of Havant have produced a new 37kVA model. The base-load unit has a Perkins 4.236 engine and Markon alternator. Compatible mountings match up with a simple but rugged channel-section base frame.

Controls are confined to electric start, and output switching. The unit will run for long periods with minimum attention, is very competitive in cost per kVA and demands no skill to operate.

Further information: circle 164

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Home exhibitions

Industrial entrepreneurs and design

Profitable combinations of entrepreneurial energy and design conviction will be illustrated at the 'Enterprise and Innovation' exhibition at the London Design Centre, 26 April to 28 May 1977. Companies selected from a wide span of British industry will be participating.

Marking the 21st Anniversary of The London Design Centre, 'Enterprise and Innovation' will occupy most of the space in the centre and will be one of the largest exhibitions mounted there. About 80 companies ranging from heavy and light engineering to ceramics, glass and textiles will be showing a cross-section of their current production. Sir Paul Reilly, director of the Design Council, has asked the chairmen or managing directors of the companies involved, to make clear personal statements on their commercial and design policies. An audio/visual feature on the ground floor will draw attention to the importance of design to Britain's economic recovery.

Further information: circle 165

Investment influenced by Foundry 77

Britain's Foundry '77 exhibition is assured of being the largest display of foundry equipment and services ever to be staged in the United Kingdom.

It is being held over 28 April to 6 May 1977, in Halls 1 and 2 of the National Exhibition Centre.

Mr John Fallows, the President of the Foundry Equipment and Supplies Association, said that the exhibition would have a great influence on the foreseeable investment plans of the British foundry industry. Over 500 applications were made for grants under the government's £40 million Ferrous Foundries Aid Scheme, which closed in December 1976. So far, assistance of over £32.5 million has been approved for 195 projects concerning a total investment of over £158 million. Only recently a £20 million Aid Scheme for non-ferrous foundries, including diecasting and investment casting foundries, was announced in Parliament.

Further information: circle 166

EIA returns to Coventry

In the city in which it was founded – Coventry – the Engineering Industries Association is to mount one if its series of regional exhibitions on 22 and 23 March. Sixty or more exhibitors will occupy the Esso hotel.

Mr Phil Mead, one of the founders of the Association will be the guest of honour at the opening ceremony, and will be a welcome reminder of the past. Around him will be the evidence of the technological achievements the Association represents today, typified by a model of 'Concorde' in the foyer, while the British Aircraft Corporation's stand will present some of the special skills developed during the 'Concorde' production programme and now offered for other engineering applications.

These techniques will be shown alongside a whole range of other products from Britain's engineers, from engineers' cutting tools and machine tool accessories to metal cutting equipment, lapping and polishing machines and acoustic products. On show, too, will be some of the support services on which engineering depends, represented by such organisations as the Electricity Council. British Airways, the Engineering Industries Training Board and the Small Firms Information Centre of the Department of Industry.

Further information: circle 167

Rubber export opportunities

Export opportunities for British rubber manufacturers include hoses and conveyor belting, where British technology is second to none. Rubberex '77, where these opportunities will be available, is to be held at the Metropole, Brighton, from 16 to 20 May, jointly with Rubbercon, the International Rubber Conference. It is expected to attract about 12,000 international buyers to the United Kingdom, of which 1,000 will be experts attending the conference.

Further information: circle 168

In brief

Autoquip '77, 28 March to 1 April, Wembley Conference Centre: Intec Ltd, the Tecalemit Group company responsible for making and marketing TJ replacement filters, will include examples of TJ oil and air elements, display panels emphasising the importance placed on quality control and prompt despatch.

Further information: circle 169

Scottish Electronics and ICC and C exhibition, 22 to 24 March, University of Edinburgh: Two features of Coutant Electronics', Reading, display will be the SU series of PCB-mounted single and twin output power supply units and the L series of bench power supplies designed for laboratory and general applications.

Further information: circle 170

Technology news

Geothermal energy studies underway

Although five UK proposals have already been accepted by the European Commission for jointly funded research and development in its geothermal energy programme, the offer is still open and it is hoped that more British organisations will submit applications before June this year.

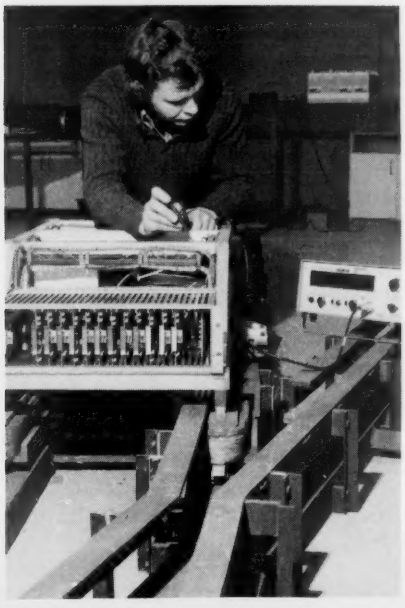
Among the contracts which have been negotiated are two with the Institute of Geological Sciences. The first is a one year contract to collect and interpret all existing data, including copies of well logs, related to geothermal energy in the UK. The second, initially for one year, but which it is hoped, will extend to three, covers the collection of new data where there are gaps in the record. Some of the information, such as seismic data, requires a lot of interpretation. The programme will also include water sampling and the chemistry of ground waters from which it may be possible to estimate the depth and type of rock from which the water has come.

Another method of prospecting will be carried out at the University of Oxford where heat flows will be studied. This will entail measuring heat flows all over the country, making use of any bore holes which may have been conveniently drilled by other people. Clearly the more interesting sites will be those where the heat is transmitted at a relatively high rate.

The Imperial College contract will again concentrate on heat flows, confined to the granite areas of South West England (Devon and Cornwall) where special holes are being drilled.

Magnetic levitation

A research vehicle (below) is prepared for a test run on a new system for switching magnetically suspended vehicles from one route to another in a laboratory at Sussex University. Research has until recently been concentrated on magnetic levitation using electro-magnets attached to the vehicle's chassis and attracted to the underneath of guide rails. Route-switching, however, raised problems. The length of the necessary gap in the rails at a junction varies, and can be as long as a carriage length, leaving one side of the vehicle unsupported. To overcome this magnets have been built which attract on both sides instead of only one. Where a gap occurs at a junction, another rail is placed on the inside. This allows the magnet to attract continuously giving the vehicle constant support. For some time the university has been able to suspend magnetically and to propel vehicles weighing up to 1 tonne.



Turbot breeding experiment

The idea of using scrap tyres as breakwaters is being adapted, in the Orkneys, for a project which could lead to more successful fish farming.

The experiment, at Stronsay, suggested by Orkney development officer Alan Coghill, is to breed 1,000 turbot and is backed by the local authority, the Highlands and Islands Development Board and the White Fish Authority.

Turbot was chosen because it could be farmed easily and was therefore a good financial proposition.

Apparently the tyres have reduced the effects of the rough water so that feeding the turbot in cages can be carried out regularly. The White Fish Authority who are controlling the experiment and are comparing the growth of the fish to the stock at their fish farm at Ardtoe, in Argyll, say they are well satisfied with the results.

The Stronsay breakwater, floating because it is supported by pockets of air trapped in the tyres, is fixed to a nylon rope with light chain allowing for the rise and fall of the tide and held in place by heavy anchor weights. As the barrier is low in the water, the tyres cut the bottom out of the wave and the mass of the water on top breaks up.

Since the fish were brought in last June, the project has made good progress, though it will take two and a half years and an estimated cost of £20,000 before the present stocks are marketable.

Standardisation in computer networking

National and international agreement has been achieved on standards for data link control (HDLC). Also under consideration or being implemented in publicly available computer networks is the virtual-call packet interface Recommendation X-25, recently adopted by the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT). Members of the United Kingdom's computer industry are being made aware of these significant developments in standardisation in computer networks by the National Committee on Computer Networks (NCCN).

Specifications of future public and private computer networks are likely to require conformity with HDLC and X-25 as a basis of design and operation. Assurance that suppliers in the UK computer industry are planning to market products which conform to these standards is being sought by Dr J. Howlett, Chairman of NCCN, in a recent letter to the members of the industry.

Approved by Eric Varley, Secretary of State, Department of Industry, the NCCN was formed in October 1976 to consider the development of computer networks, to provide a forum for discussion and to give advice to industry and government on the introduction and use of networks. Its membership is drawn from major users and suppliers of computing networking equipment and systems and includes representatives of trade unions and the Department of Industry.

Further information: circle 171

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Mobile airconditioned accommodation

Normalair-Garrett Ltd and Airborne Industries Ltd have successfully tested an airconditioned portable shelter for operation in conditions of high temperature and humidity.

In the environmental test hangar at Boscombe Down the combination of a cooling vehicle and an inflatable shelter was subjected to a variety of simulated desert and tropical conditions.

Here it was found that, with an outside temperature of 60°C, a cool 18-20°C could be maintained inside the shelter.

The inflatable building can be carried on the roof-rack of the truck, and the air supply used to inflate the tubes of the structure, before providing the air conditioning for the inside. A small generator provides enough power to run fluorescent lighting making it suitable for the operating theatre of a mobile field hospital, for sensitive electronic equipment or for luxury living accommodation.

So far, interest has mainly come from Africa and the Middle East where there is a need for high quality portable accommodation for use in extreme conditions.

Further information: circle 172

One of a series of inflatable buildings produced by Airborne Industries Ltd initially developed to shelter military equipment under all weather conditions.

Conferences

'Tero '77 – Profit Through Care', is to be held at Grosvenor House, London, from 2 to 6 May 1977. Organised by the Department of Industry through its Committee for Terotechnology the conference will show how terotechnology principles, when applied to capital assets, are closely linked with profitability.

Further details from the Secretariat, Committee for Terotechnology, Department of Industry, Room 541, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1B 4LN.

The Principles and Practice of Flow Measurement is a five-day course from 9 to 13 May, being organised by the Department of Industry's National Engineering Laboratory. Further details from NEL, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QU, tel. East Kilbride 20222.

Rolling Element Bearings is a one-day course being run for practising industrial engineers on 5 May at Risley. Information from the Course Organiser, National Centre of Tribology, UKAEA, Risley, Warrington WA3 6AT, tel. Warrington 31244 ext. 3564.

'Furnishings and Fire: reducing the risk' will be held on 4 May at the Wembley Conference Centre. Details from A4 Publications Ltd, 25 High Street, Edenbridge, Kent, tel. 073-271 3944.

Transfer of Technology, TransTec 77, organised by the Committee of Directors of Research Associations is being held at the Hyde Park Hotel, 9 to 10 May. Details from CDRA Ltd, 47 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0EQ, tel. 01-222 0589.

New blasting system for cleaner steel

For the long-term protection of steelwork, coatings must be applied to a well-prepared and thoroughly clean surface; so clean in fact that dry sand blasting alone is not always sufficient and in many cases will leave the surface holding salts which may subsequently cause the coating to deteriorate.

Kue Engineering Ltd of Bradford has developed a new system, 'System 9-18', that overcomes this problem, blasting and washing the surface at one pass.

Officially launched at a recent demonstration at the Paint Research Association, it has been developed following discussions with specifying engineers on both marine and shore-based steelwork.

Kue Engineering Ltd is preparing to undertake contracts and its associate company, Kue Engineering (Sales) Ltd, with the help of the National Research Development Corporation, is hoping to export the system.

Further information: circle 173

Tall buildings, quieter sites and saving waste

Improvements in the strength of building materials and in methods of construction have resulted in lighter structures which have increased flexibility. As a result some tall buildings move so much in the wind that problems occur, such as damage to finishes, and lack of weathertightness.

The Building Research Establishment has now made a new film, 'Dynamic behaviour of tall buildings', which describes their findings.

A second film outlines the development of a noise-reduced dumper, which was produced as a collaborative project between BRE, Slater and England (part of the Winget plant manufacturing group) and Petters (engine manufacturers).

With increased mechanisation in the construction industry, site noise has become more of a problem. Recent legislation empowers local authorities to specify noise limits and the Department of Employment's code of practice recommends that unprotected ears should not be exposed to an equivalent continuous sound level of 90 dB (A) or more, over an eight-hour day.

BRE is also organising a conference on 'Waste of materials on building sites' at the Grosvenor Hotel, Glasgow, on Wednesday 23 March.

Computer data by radio

Final tests are carried out on a Racal TTA.1860 high frequency radio transmitter which, when teamed with a new microprocessor based device, will allow computer data to be transmitted over long distance radio links. The system will be used in an advanced British data retrieval system consisting of a central complex and 13 outstations which may be hundreds of miles apart. Existing radio equipment transmits five-bit codes, whereas computer data requires a seven/eight-bit code and where sent by UHF is normally limited to a distance of less than a mile. In the new system, the radio and computer terminals use a special seven-unit 'protected' code with provision for checking. Automatic warning systems will detect errors.

Further information: circle 174

Parliament

Monday, 7 March

Average rate of return on capital

John MacGregor (South Norfolk) asked for a comparison of the current average rate of return on capital in British industry with the rate of return 15 years ago.

'Measured at replacement cost, about one-third of what it was in 1961,' said Mr Williams.

Lucas Aerospace

Robert Parry (Liverpool, Scotland Exchange) asked for a statement on proposed redundancies at the Lucas Aerospace Plant at Liverpool.

Mr Huckfield said: 'We were naturally very much concerned to hear of the possible redundancies at the Liverpool plant of Lucas Aerospace, which are most unwelcome in an area of such high unemployment. My department is in close touch with the company, which is at present suffering from the worldwide recession in the civil aircraft market. The company has been examining various remedial strategies in consultation with its employees and I understand that officials from the Department of Employment have been in touch with the company and have brought the temporary employment subsidy scheme to their attention. I can assure my hon friend that it it proves impossible to avoid redundancies, the agencies of the Manpower Services Commission will do all they can to help those affected to find new jobs or train for alternative employment.'

Civil aircraft projects

'Which civil aircraft projects, including aero-engines, are receiving financial assistance; and what is the amount of assistance project by project?' asked Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury).

Mr Kaufman replied: 'Total financial assistance given up to 31 March 1976 on projects currently receiving support was £7.1 million on the HS146; £522 million on the RB211; £471 million on Concorde; £245 million on the Olympus engine and £62 million on capital assistance agreements and on work in government establishments associated with Concorde. This expenditure was offset by receipts of £297.5 million on the RB211 and £84 million on the Concorde project as a whole.'

Public funds for industry

Mr J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked for an estimate of total public funds contributed to manufacturing industry for the latest convenient period.

Mr Huckfield said: 'Records of expenditure are not, by and large, maintained so as to distinguish manufacturing industry from other industrial activity but assistance to manufacturing industry during the period 1974/75 to 1976/77 has been about £6,350 million at 1976 survey prices. This figure does not include support for nationalised industries, industrial training, redundancy fund payments or labour market services which together account for a further £2,582 million at 1976 survey prices.'

Ferrous foundry scheme

Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) asked how much money had been given out in aid under the ferrous foundry scheme in each of the development areas.

Mr Cryer said that up to the end of February the following amounts, to the nearest £1,000, had been offered to companies in development (including special development) areas:

Scotland	£5,089,000
Northern region	£3,149,000
North west region	£31,000
Wales	£73,000
South west region	£57,000

A total £7.25 million had also been offered to companies in intermediate areas. Actual payments so far have been quite small since they were made only when expenditure had taken place.

Steel industry

Peter Hardy asked at what proportion of capacity the British steel industry was currently operating; how this compared with the position of other steel-producing countries in western Europe; and any early improvement in orders and production was expected.

Mr Kaufman said: 'The British steel industry operated at about 75 per cent capacity in 1976 compared with an estimate of 65 per cent for the six using ECSC definitions. Part of the difference was due to production for stock by the British industry, including counter-cyclical stock-building by BSC. I do not expect a significant upturn in demand before the third quarter of 1977.'

Advance factories

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked what geographical definition of shipbuilding areas had been used in the latest programme of advance factory building; and how many advance factories were standing empty or under construction in those areas.

Mr Williams replied: The shipbuilding areas are defined for this purpose as the Travel to Work Areas of Tyneside, Wearside, Teesside and Liverpool. The current figures of advance factories are as under:

TTW area	Empty	Under construction
Tyneside	4	10
Wearside	7	5
Teesside	2	2
Liverpool	4	17

'How much advance factory space is currently under construction; and what is the total value of the contracts in progress?' asked Tim Sainsbury (Hove).

Mr Williams said the area under construction in England was 1.5 million sq ft at a contracted cost of £13.2 million.

Regional development associations

John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would publish a table showing the value of grants given to each regional development association.

Mr Cryer said grants in aid were paid to regional development associations to support promotional activities in respect of assisted areas. He gave the following figures:

Region	Grant aid 1977/78	Development area unemployment (1)	Unemployment in the region as a whole (1)
North	£250,000	105,743	105,743
North-west	£135,000	82,969	205,360
Yorkshire	£30,000	5,015	115,126

(1) Provisional figures for January 1977.

Sona Consultants project at Moderna

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked if an application from Sona Consultants Ltd for financial assistance for a manufacturing project at Moderna, West Yorkshire, had been received.

An application had been submitted to the regional office in Leeds that morning, replied Mr Cryer. 'This application does not however contain all the detailed forward trading forecasts which the department will require to process it. The company has told the department that it expects to be able to provide the additional information in about three weeks.'

Regional preferential assistance

John Pardoe (North Cornwall) asked for the cost per head of population of public expenditure for which the Department of Industry is responsible in Cornwall, and England and Wales, respectively.

Mr Cryer said that the information was not available in the form requested. Estimates of the expenditure on Regional Preferential Assistance paid by this department were as follows:

	1975/76
South west assisted areas	
Total expenditure	£7 million
Per head of population	£8.3
English assisted areas	
Total expenditure	£225.5 million
Per head of population	£14.0
Wales	
Total expenditure	£64.4 million
Per head of population	£23.3

Notes:

(a) The figures comprise Regional Development Grants, Regional Selective Financial Assistance, the Investment Grant Differential, Local Employment Act residual expenditure and expenditure on land and factories.

(b) The figures do not include expenditure by the Office for Wales to which certain responsibilities were transferred during the course of the financial year.

(c) All figures are gross and include payments to nationalised industries.

(d) Records of expenditure under section 8 of the Industry Act (which is not confined to the Assisted Areas) are not kept on a regional basis.

Regional development grant

Mr A. G. F. Hall-Davis (Morecambe and Lonsdale) asked: 'What was the value of new buildings, works and adaptations, and the value of new machinery, plant and mining works, respectively, qualifying for regional development grant in the North West Region for each of the last five 12-month periods for which figures are available; and what are the same figures subdivided as to special development, development and intermediate areas?'

Mr Cryer answered that the amounts of eligible expenditure in the North West Region on which regional development grants were paid in the four financial years 1972/73 to 1975/76, and in the nine months April/December 1976, were as follows:

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

£'000

Period	Plant and machinery			Building and works				Total plant and machinery, building and works
	Special development area	Development area	Total	Special development area	Development area	Intermediate area	Total	
1972/73	Nil	1,020	1,020	Nil	35	350	385	1,405
1973/74	Nil	55,880	55,880	Nil	6,180	18,360	24,540	80,420
1974/75	17,268	125,335	142,603	3,977	13,650	41,325	58,952	201,555
1975/76	91,336	53,675	145,011	18,304	7,900	57,355	83,559	228,570
Nine months Apr/Dec 1976	103,418	18,355	121,773	24,209	2,735	43,615	70,559	192,332
Total	212,022	254,265	466,287	264,490	30,500	161,005	237,995	704,282

Expenditure prior to 22 March 1972 is not eligible for grant. Applications for grant cover widely varying periods of expenditure, so that grant payments made reflect expenditure in the relevant financial year as well as expenditure in previous years. No statistics are maintained, by standard region, of the actual periods in which the expenditure is incurred. Merseyside was upgraded from DA to SDA status in August 1974.

Fluidised-bed combustion process

Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire) inquired about support for the development of the fluidised-bed combustion process.

Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, said: 'My department is prepared to contribute up to £3.75 million to a research project estimated to cost £16.9 million over eight years to develop towards commercial application the pressurised fluidised bed combustion of coal for steam raising.

'The project is being carried out at Grimethorpe in Yorkshire under the auspices of the International Energy Agency with the NCB (IEA Services Ltd) as operating agent.

'The project was started about 15 months ago and its first two phases have been completed with the United Kingdom, USA and German Federal Republic participating and each bearing one-third of the total costs. The UK share has been divided between my department and the NCB in the proportion 2:1. My department's estimated contribution mentioned above assumes that this basis of participation and funding will continue.'

Export documentation

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked: 'What action is being taken to simplify documentation concerned with exports?'

'Considerable work is being undertaken both here and overseas to simplify, and abolish where possible, procedures and documentation in international trade,' said Mr Meacher. 'Successive governments have attached much importance to achieving improvements and I believe some real progress has been and continues to be made.

'The Department of Trade, through the British Overseas Trade Board, wholly funds the Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board (Sitpro) which was set up in 1970 to carry on work initiated earlier and officials of my department and of HM Customs and Excise take an active part in its work both at home and in international fora. Recent achievements include the publication by Sitpro of a handbook "Systematic Export Documentation" which illustrates the substantial progress made towards standard formats and offers systems of preparation of export documentation which can reduce costs substantially. Copies of this have been placed in the libraries of the House.

'Representatives of many bodies both public and private concerned with international trade contribute in many ways towards this work of removing unnecessary obstacles for exports and I am grateful to those who give their time to this unglamorous but very necessary activity.'

Trade with Lebanon

Mr F. A. Burden (Gillingham) asked: 'What steps are being taken to acquaint British industrialists with the immediate demand for a wide range of capital and other goods and services in the Lebanon?'

Mr Meacher said: 'The normal wide range of advice and assistance to exporters is available from my department and the British Overseas Trade Board (BOTB). Specific export opportunities to the Lebanon are channelled to subscribers through the BOTB's Export Intelligence Services. In addition an exploratory mission to Beirut was undertaken in January under the auspices of the committee on Middle East Trade. Following this visit, publicity was given to a seminar at which a first hand account was given of the prospects for reconstruction and for the involvement of British firms.

'The government has also, through its ambassador in Beirut, made offers to the Lebanese government in connection with a number of projects which the Ministry of Overseas Development is willing to finance under its technical co-operation programme. It has been willing to provide funds for studies on the reconstruction of Beirut port and on industrial estates and related housing; an agricultural expert is being made available to examine appropriate forms of assistance; equipment has also been provided for a hospital and for the Ministry of Works.

'The commercial facilities of ECGD are also available for exports to the Lebanon on suitably secured terms which are being kept under constant review.'

Russian dumper trucks

Patrick Wall (Haltemprice) asked if the cif price of models of Belaz trucks now satisfies the anti-dumping code.

Mr Meacher told him that the USSR authorities had given assurances that the two models of Belaz truck recently the subject of an anti-dumping investigation would in future be landed in the UK at cif prices which would not constitute dumping.

Commissions on life assurance policies

Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade was satisfied that the change to premium related commissions under life assurance policies was in the best interest of the consumer.

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'Commissions payable on life assurance policies are not subject to my approval or control; but it seems to me that the policyholder's interest is more likely to be served by commission being related to the premium paid rather than to the sum assured, as was the case previously.'

Price increases

Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked for a table showing for each month since January: the increase on the previous month of the wholesale price of manufactures less foodstuffs; the increase on the previous month of import prices of manufactures for the previous six months; the increase on the previous month of the retail price of imported and home-produced goods which figure in the RPI; and the increase on the previous month of the import price of fuel and basic materials for the previous 12 months.

Mr Maclennan gave the nearest available information as follows:

% increase on a month earlier

	Wholesale Price Index		Retail Price Index (2)	Import Unit Value Index	
	Manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco				
	Products (home sales)	Materials purchased (1)	All items *less* food	Fuels (SITC section 3)	Basic materials (SITC sections 2 and 4)
1976 January	2.0	0.6	0.9	2.4	0.0
February	1.5	1.2	0.8	0.3	1.3
March	0.7	4.9	0.5	0.8	0.0
April	1.2	5.0	1.9	3.4	4.4
May	1.4	2.8	1.3	3.0	5.1
June	0.8	3.2	0.8	4.5	3.2
July	1.5	0.8	0.8	1.1	2.3
August	1.7	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.8
September	1.0	2.8	0.6	1.8	2.3
October	1.5	4.5	1.4	0.8	4.8
November	2.1	0.6	1.2	5.0	3.9
December	1.1	−1.4	1.1	−0.4	4.1
1977 January	2.5	2.5	2.2	−0.3	0.0

Notes:
(1) Includes some home-produced materials.
(2) A sub-division of the retail prices index for all items less food into separate indices for imported and home-produced goods is not available.

Aircraft noise

Ronald Brown (Hackney South and Shoreditch) referred to Mr Clinton Davis's reply of 28 February (Trade and Industry, *11 March, page 623*) *and asked what the highest noise levels would have been had Concorde been included in the results; and which runways the relevant aircraft were using.*

Mr Clinton Davis gave the following information:

1976	PNdB	Runway	Aircraft type
January	118	10L	Trident
February	124	10L	Boeing 707
March	118	10L	Trident
April	117	28L	Trident
		10R	Boeing 707
May	119	10R	Concorde
June	124	10L	Boeing 707
July	119	10L	Boeing 707
		10R	Boeing 747
August	119	10R	Boeing 707
September	124	10R	Concorde
October	122	10R	Concorde
November	118	28L	Boeing 707
December	118	28L	Boeing 707
1977			
January	121	10R	Boeing 747

Inflation

'What is the latest three-monthly rate of price inflation?' asked Greville Janner (Leicester West).

Mr Maclennan said that the figure was 5.4 per cent.

Tuesday, 8 March

Solar energy

Ivan Lawrence (Burton) asked when plans for an expanded government research and development programme of solar energy would be announced.

Mr Huckfield said: 'The Department of Industry is currently supporting research aimed at improving the performance and substantially reducing the cost of photo-voltaic solar cells used for terrestrial purposes. It is also supporting a member of staff at the Solar Energy Unit at Cardiff University in order to provide a source of advice and information on the potential value to industry of developments in solar energy. The

department has no plans to increase its level of expenditure in this area, but proposals for research will be treated on their merits using the same criteria the department uses for all its R and D expenditure in support of industry. At the present time some discussions are in hand with industrial companies on possible submissions to the department's Research Requirements Boards.'

EEC proposals for data processing industry

Eric Moonman (Basildon) asked for a statement on the changes proposed by the EEC to overrule national support policies for the computer industry.

Mr Cryer answered: 'The EEC commission's proposals for support of the data processing industry in the community recognise the existence of national support policies and envisage complementing them with a community programme. The content of this programme and the scope for co-ordination with national policies will be discussed in the forthcoming examination of the commission's proposals through the normal council procedures.'

Statistical Inquiry into Catering

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked what was the total cost of completing the Statistical Inquiry into Catering for 1977.

Mr Meacher replied that the Business Statistics Office had estimated their costs in preparing, holding and processing the inquiry as approximately £75,000 at current costings.

'Why is the BSO requesting that information for the Statistical Inquiry into Catering should be given inclusive of VAT?' asked Mr Wainwright.

Mr Meacher explained that the turnover reported in the inquiry would provide the basis for estimates of consumers' expenditure in the national accounts which are inclusive of VAT.

Consumer Credit Act

George Rodgers (Chorley) asked for a statement about implementation of the Consumer Credit Act.

Mr Fraser replied: 'I have made orders and regulations which, with one exception, require creditors and owners making regulated agreements to hold a licence granted by the Director General of Fair Trading from 1 October 1977. The exception concerns non-corporate creditors who only make agreements for credit not exceeding £30 in respect of whom I have considered it desirable to defer licensing. This deferment will be kept under review. My intention, subject to further consideration, is to make a similar deferment for credit brokers in the further stage of licensing.

'I have made arrangements that money lenders and pawnbrokers whose licences expire on 31 July will not have to renew these licences on 1 August but will require a licence from the director general from 1 October.

'From 16 May the provisions in the act enabling consumers to obtain and, where appropriate, correct copies of files about them held by credit reference agencies will be effective. From the same date the courts will be given powers to reopen any personal credit agreement they consider extortionate.

'An essential preliminary to these steps is the identification of those consumer credit and hire agreements which are to be regulated. Accordingly, among the various orders and regulations I have made, has been an order exempting certain agreements from many of the provisions of the act, including certain short term credit sales and certain agreements made below a commercial rate of charge. To enable the exemption rate to be calculated I have also made regulations stipulating what charges are to be included in the total charge for credit and how the rate is to be calculated. To assist in calculations HMSO have published a series of tables.

'I have placed in the libraries of both Houses an explanatory booklet entitled "Counting the Cost of Credit" which explains and illustrates the regulations for calculation of the rate of charge. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

'I have also made regulations setting out cases where local authority officers need the prior authorisation of the director general before taking certain enforcement action.

'Consultation on the implementation of the act will continue. Among other provisions I hope to introduce this year will be those requiring creditors to disclose their rates in most advertisements and agreements.' (See also *Trade and Industry*, 11 March, page 617.)

Bread prices

Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked for an estimate of the percentage of standard 28 oz loaves currently being sold at a lower price than would have been the case without the implementation of the Bread Prices (No. 2) Order 1976.

Mr Maclennan said: 'For some weeks after the entry into force of the new arrangements, the situation was complicated by the action of the bread deliverymen. Nevertheless preliminary information about the prices of bread in major shopping centres indicates that in the five weeks from 9 January about 66 per cent of urban supermarkets had bread at prices 3p or more below the statutory maximum, compared with 44 per cent in the eight weeks up to Christmas.'

Wednesday, 9 March

Regional assistance

Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked for the cost to public funds of all forms of regional assistance to special development areas, development areas, intermediate areas and derelict land clearance areas, respectively, for each of the years from 1964 to 1976, inclusive; expressed per head of population; and stating the average percentage level of unemployment in the respective areas for each of the years in question.

'I regret that the information is not available in the form requested,' said Mr Cryer. 'Expenditure on regional preferential assistance to industry at current prices for the financial years 1971/72 to 1975/76 is estimated as follows':

REGIONAL PREFERENTIAL EXPENDITURE – ESTIMATED BREAKDOWN

	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76
Northern development area					
Total expenditure	£78m	£66m	£92m	£122m	£185m
Per capita	£23.1	£19.1	£27.3	£36.2	£54.9
Unemployment rate	6.0%	5.8%	4.4%	4.8%	6.6%
North west region					
Total expenditure	£49m	£40m	£53m	£89m	£107m
Per capita	£7.5	£6.1	£8.1	£13.6	£16.3
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.7%	3.4%	3.8%	6.2%
of which:					
Merseyside					
Total expenditure	£41m	£34m	£43m	£66m	£79m
Per capita	£24.2	£20.1	£25.7	£39.6	£47.7
Unemployment rate	6.3%	7.2%	5.8%	6.3%	9.5%
South west assisted area					
Total expenditure	£6m	£5m	£7m	£11m	£11m
Per capita	£7.1	£5.9	£8.3	£13.0	£13.0
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.2%	3.3%	4.1%	7.6%
Yorkshire and Humberside intermediate area					
Total expenditure	£3m	£2m	£10m	£16m	£23m
Per capita	£0.6	£0.4	£2.3	£3.4	£4.9
Unemployment rate	4.2%	3.9%	2.7%	2.8%	4.7%
East Midlands intermediate area					
Total expenditure	—	£0.8m	£1.8m	£3.6m	£2.5m
Per capita	—	£1.2	£2.7	£5.4	£3.8
Unemployment rate	—	3.9%	2.8%	3.1%	4.8%
West Midlands					
Total expenditure	—	—	£0.4m	£1.3m	£0.5m
Per capita	—	—	£9.1	£27.3	£11.6
Unemployment rate	—	—	2.5%	3.5%	6.4%
Scotland					
Total expenditure	£87.2m	£85.2m	£108.6m	£146.3m	£228.0m
Per capita	£16.7	£16.4	£20.9	£29.1	£43.8
Unemployment rate	6.3%	6.1%	4.2%	4.2%	5.9%
Wales					
Total expenditure	£44.7m	£53.6m	£65.7m	£81.5m	£104.0m
Per capita	£16.2	£19.4	£23.8	£29.5	£37.6
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.6%	3.4%	4.0%	6.6%
Great Britain assisted areas*					
Total expenditure	£268.5m	£254.1m	£339.7m	£473.4m	£669.4m
Per capita	£11.1	£10.5	£14.1	£19.6	£27.8
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.3%	2.4%	2.7%	4.6%

Notes:

All figures are gross and include payments to nationalised industries. The major items included are regional development grants, selective financial assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972, Local Employment Act assistance, regional employment premium and the investment grant differential (estimated) in favour of the assisted areas.

* Includes some items which cannot be broken down below the national level.

Planning agreement with Chrysler UK

Joseph Dean (Leeds West) asked: 'What progress has been made towards concluding a planning agreement with Chrysler (UK) Ltd?'

Mr Varley's statement was published in *Trade and Industry* last week, page 610.

Dr Oonagh McDonald (Thurrock) asked what controls there would be over the currency in which imported components and unassembled passenger cars are charged to Chrysler (UK) so that the advantage would accrue to Chrysler (UK) in the planning agreement.

Mr Cryer replied: 'The agreement dated 5 January 1976 between the government and Chrysler provides that transfer prices of products and charges for services between companies in the CUK Group and other companies in the CC Group shall be determined on an arm's length basis to be disclosed to the Secretary of State.'

Tourism in development areas

John H. Cordle (Bournemouth East) asked if the funds presently available for promoting tourism in development areas could be made available to provide low interest loans in other areas to help hoteliers meet the long-term expenditure necessitated to comply with the Fire Precautions Act.

'No,' said Mr Meacher. 'Funds may be made available under the Development of Tourism Act 1969 for the purpose of encouraging the provision and improvement of tourist amenities and facilities, but these funds are not available to hoteliers to fulfil their statutory obligations under the Fire Precautions Act 1971.'

Business Monitor questionnaires

Robin Hodgson (Walsall North) asked: 'Why in the form "Miscellaneous Metal Goods – Quarterly Inquiry into Manufacturers' Sales" PQ 399.12 returns are

requested covering rubber, plastic products and lighter fuel?'

Mr Huckfield replied: 'The quarterly inquiry in question is one of a comprehensive series of inquiries. All questionnaires list, not only the principal products of a particular industry, but provide also for the declaration of sales of significant "secondary" products made within the industry which are principal products of other industries. Thus, the completion by firms in any industry of only one questionnaire provides information which makes it possible to calculate the total sales not only of the products of that industry, but also of the principal products of other industries. Although rubber products, plastic products and lighter fuel are not the principal products of PQ 399.12, the contribution to the total sales of these products (as included in other Business Monitors), by firms classified to the Miscellaneous Metal Goods industry, is substantial.'

Mr Hodgson asked if the present circulation of 1,147 of the form covered all appropriate manufacturers in the country; and for an estimate of the percentage covered.

Mr Huckfield said: 'The despatch of 1,147 copies of the quarterly inquiry form PQ 399.12 covers all known establishments in the United Kingdom classified to this industry and employing 25 or more persons. Detailed information about the very small firms in the industry is not collected, but it is estimated that this inquiry covers some 74 per cent, in terms of employment, of all firms classified to the industry.'

Statistical Inquiry into Catering

Mr Wainwright asked: 'What is the purpose of the Statistical Inquiry into Catering for 1977 now being carried out by the BSO?'

Mr Meacher replied: 'The purpose of the 1977 Catering Inquiry to be held in 1978 is to provide statistics needed by both government and outside users. In particular the government needs information on stocks, capital expenditure and turnover by commodity for use in compiling the national accounts and monitoring developments in the economy. Outside users are interested, for example, in turnover by commodity and in a detailed breakdown of catering turnover according to the kind of business (hotels, restaurants, etc). There is no question, and no part of any question, which is not directly related to explicit government or outside user requirements.'

ECGD

Michael Latham (Melton) asked: 'Why is access to buyer credit facilities restricted by the ECGD to contracts of £1 million or over; what evidence is available that UK exporters wishing facilities for smaller contracts are able to find satisfactory alternative private sources; and how long has the £1 million maximum been in existence?'

Mr Meacher answered: 'Access to Buyer Credit facilities is generally restricted by ECGD to contracts of £1 million and over for the following reasons:

1 There has been little demand for this facility for contracts below £1 million (less than one case per month over the past five years).
2 The Buyer Credit facility is relatively expensive to operate for exporters, bankers and ECGD and hardly justifies the time and expenditure involved for contracts of less than £1 million.
3 There are adequate alternative means of obtaining export finance with ECGD support for contracts below £1 million through that department's Bank Guarantee Scheme; this is used by the great majority of insured exporters and is generally preferred for smaller contracts.

'I have no reason to believe that adequate export finance facilities are not available to exporters from private sources through overdraft or discounting arrangements within the banking system, supported over a wide range of business by ECGD's Bank Guarantee Scheme.

'The minimum access figure for Buyer Credit facilities was increased to £1 million in February 1977, a lower figure of £0.25 million having previously been available since November 1971. As a result of inflation since that time this figure is no longer appropriate. There is no maximum access figure.'

Mr Latham asked why the ECGD imposed a £1 million minimum contract value requirement for its pre-shipment finance guarantee; for how long this minimum has been in existence; and for evidence that UK exporters wishing facilities for smaller contracts were able to find satisfactory alternative private sources.

Mr Meacher said: 'The ECGD pre-shipment finance facility is intended to help where a desirable export of major capital goods is put at risk through difficulties over the availability of production finance. For business of this nature the £1 million minimum contract value, which has been in force since the facility was introduced in August 1975, is reasonable. ECGD's experience of operating the facility has given no reason to believe that the limit is unduly restrictive. The facility, which does not reduce the cost of finance, is of limited application, its object being to supplement the availability of private finance. There is no evidence that adequate production financing facilities are not available for smaller scale business through normal banking channels.'

Vehicle and General

Mr Moonman asked for a statement on the latest position on the Vehicle and General and the losses incurred by policy holders.

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'I understand that the joint liquidators of the Vehicle and General Insurance Co Ltd expect to pay an interim dividend of about 25p in the pound to the unsecured creditors within the next few weeks. Further dividends will be paid as soon as possible and on present information creditors should ultimately receive not less than 50p in the pound on their claims.'

Thursday, 10 March

OFT annual report

Sydney Irving (Dartford) asked when the report by the Director General of Fair Trading for the year 1976 would be published.

'The third annual report by the Director General of Fair Trading is being published today,' said Mr Fraser. 'The report covers the period 1 January 1976 to 31 December 1976 (see page 689).

CPRS report on power plant industry

Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East) asked for a list of the organisations from which the Secretary of State for Industry had received written submissions in the course of his consultations on the CPRS report on the power plant industry and those organisations and individuals he and the minister of state had met; and when he expected to complete the consultation process.

Mr Cryer gave the following list of organisations making written submissions to the department following publication of the CPRS report:
ASTMS Rugby branch, Babcock and Wilcox Renfrew Trade Unions, Clarke Chapman Group Joint Trade Unions, Clarke Chapman Ltd, Joint Trade Union Committee of Clarke Chapman Wolverhampton, Joint Trade Union Committee of GEC Stafford, National Union of Mineworkers, Newcastle City Council, North of England Development Council, C. A. Parsons Ltd, Corporate Committee of Trade Unions, Reyrolle Parsons Ltd, Scottish Trades Union Congress, Strathclyde Regional Council.

Mr Cryer said that meetings at ministerial level had been held with the following:
Miss Harvie Anderson MP, ASTMS Parliamentary Committee, Babcock and Wilcox Ltd (management representatives), Babcock and Wilcox Ltd (employees' representatives), Mr N. Buchan MP, Clarke Chapman Ltd (management representatives), Clarke Chapman Ltd (employees' representatives), Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, Mr B. Conlan MP, Mr H. Cowans MP, Mr J. Dean MP, General Electric Co Ltd (management representatives), GEC Turbine Generators Ltd (employees' representatives), Greater Manchester Council, Mr J. Horam MP, Mr D. Hoyle MP, Mr E. Leadbitter MP, Mr R. J. Mellish MP, Mr A. Morris MP, Mr C. Morris MP, National Enterprise Board, Newcastle City Council, Rev I. K. Paisley MP, C. A. Parsons Ltd (employees' representatives), Mr W. Price MP, Reyrolle Parsons Ltd (management representatives), Strathclyde Regional Council, Mr M. Thomas MP, TUC Fuel and Power Industries Committee, Mr P. Whitehead MP, Mr R. Woof MP.

Further consultations with those most closely concerned with the measures proposed in the CPRS report would be arranged as necessary.

Chrysler UK

Dr McDonald (Thurrock) asked to what extent Chrysler (UK) would be expected to replace imported components with components manufactured in the United Kingdom according to the terms of the forthcoming planning agreement.

Mr Cryer answered: 'The contents of the planning agreement are confidential but I can say it is the company's intention whenever possible and having regard to normal commercial considerations to buy components from British sources. Most of Chrysler UK's production is in any case substantially British-sourced. The British content of the Alpine car being assembled at Ryton will be increased during this year to over 50 per cent with the possibility of further increases to follow.'

Imports of cars from France

Dr McDonald asked for details, by value and number, of unassembled passenger motor cars exceeding 1,000cc but not 1,600cc imported from France in each of the last 13 months.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

		Value £'000 cif	Number
1976	January to May	—	—
	June	287	232
	July	982	720
	August	1,253	1,008
	September	2,032	1,538
	October	3,611	2,688
	November	4,177	3,264
	December	2,862	2,592
1977	January	2,545	2,541

Helsinki Final Act

Sir Frederic Bennett (Torbay) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade was satisfied with the progress of steps towards trade relaxations between East and West European signatories of the Helsinki Final Act.

Mr Meacher answered: 'Although there has been some modest progress, much still remains to be done. There will be an opportunity at the Belgrade meetings later this year for a full assessment of the implementation of all the provisions of the Final Act.'

UK-USSR agreement on science and technology

Mr Wall referred to the EEC Heads of State agreements in 1972 and 1973 and the resolution of 14 January 1974 regarding the control of scientific and technical policies of member states and asked if the EEC were consulted and whether they agreed to the British-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' bilateral agreements in these fields since February 1974.

Mr Meacher replied: 'There is currently no community procedure for consultation about bilateral agreements on science and technology. The European Commission was, however, notified under the arrangements for dealing with economic and industrial co-operation agreements of the British-Soviet Agreement on the Development of Economic, Scientific, Technological and Industrial Co-operation signed on 6 May 1974. No objection was raised to this agreement which is very similar to agreements on the same subjects which have been concluded between other member states and the USSR.'

Textile imports

Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked what was the level of textile imports in terms of volume and prices in January 1977; and how did this compare with the monthly average for 1976 and the level in January 1976, and also for those categories of textile imports which had shown an increase by volume or price in January 1977, compared with the monthly average for 1976.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

SITC(R) headings		January 1977		Year 1976 monthly average		January 1976	
		Metric tonnes	Average value £ per metric tonne	Metric tonnes	Average value £ per metric tonne	Metric tonnes	Average value £ per metric tonne
266	Synthetic and regenerated (artificial) fibres	9,104*	714*	7,612	649	7,302	572
651.2	Yarn of wool and animal hair + 262.8 Wool tops	583	3,480*	655	2,659	575	2,259
651.3	Cotton yarn and thread unbleached 651.4 Cotton yarn and thread (bleach dyed mercerised)	3,358*	1,680*	2,557	1,363	2,712	1,163
651.6	Yarn and thread of synthetic fibres	9,577*	1,531*	8,643	1,449	8,072	1,248
ex 651	Other textile yarn and thread	2,299*	1,179*	2,000	1,130	2,110	1,012
652.1	Cotton fabrics, woven, grey (unbleached) not mercerised	5,843*	1,678*	5,096	1,384	6,946	1,092
652.2	Cotton fabrics, woven, other than grey (bleached dyed mercerised, printed or otherwise finished)	3,303*	3,518*	3,074	2,874	3,283	2,465
653.51	Fabrics, woven, of continuous synthetic fibres, other than pile or chenille fabrics	1,342*	4,034*	1,051	3,535	1,345	2,928
653.52	Fabrics, woven, of discontinuous synthetic fibres, other than pile or chenille fabrics	3,764*	3,262*	2,705	3,051	2,949	2,712
653.53	Pile and chenille fabrics of synthetic fibres	475*	5,709	386	5,131	376	4,255
653.6	Fabrics, woven, of regenerated (artificial) fibres	894*	3,430*	743	3,261	849	2,557
ex 653	Other textile fabrics, woven (not including narrow or special fabrics), other than cotton fabrics	3,506*	1,591	3,130	1,615	2,990	1,337
654	Tulle, lace, embroidery, ribbons, trimmings	417*	6,743	285	8,414	240	7,150
655	Special textile fabrics and related products	4,272*	1,580*	3,998	1,368	3,074	1,385
656	Made-up articles, wholly or chiefly of textile materials	3,041*	2,464*	2,362	2,216	2,843	2,011
657	Floor coverings, tapestries, etc	2,529*	3,100*	2,486	2,353	2,080	2,405
841.11	Men's and boys' outer garments, not knitted or crocheted	2,657*	6,256*	2,640	5,797	3,048	4,558
841.12	Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments not knitted or crocheted	1,303	8,738*	1,382	7,372	1,673	6,402
841.13 14	Men's and womens' under garments not knitted or crocheted	1,191*	6,953*	965	6,068	793	5,112
841.2	Clothing accessories of textile fabric not knitted or crocheted	258*	10,109*	252	9,257	250	7,271
841.41	Gloves, etc, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised	233*	3,335	208	3,728	176	2,540
841.42	Stockings, etc, knitted or crocheted	34	6,231*	57	5,089	43	4,628
841.43	Under garments, knitted or crocheted	1,085*	6,954*	899	5,815	795	5,072
841.44	Outer garments, knitted or crocheted	1,096	7,697*	1,957	6,933	2,143	5,930
Total		62,974		55,143		56,667	

Notes:
(1) An asterisk indicates an increase in quantity or average value when compared with monthly average for 1976.
(2) Values per metric tonne derived from the overseas trade statistics are not true prices. They are influenced by differences in commodity compositions of the SITC(R) headings, by differences in quality, by transport costs and certain other factors.

Friday, 11 March

References of merger proposals

Jim Craigen (Glasgow, Maryhill) asked how many mergers of companies the DPCP could have referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission since 1974 under the Fair Trading Act 1973; and how many were so referred.

Mr Fraser said that the figures were 452 and 14, respectively, in the three years to end-1976.

Consumer Credit Act 1974

'When does the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection propose to issue regulations in relation to: the content and method of calculation of total credit charges; and the determination and publication of true or effective interest rates under the Consumer Credit Act 1974?' asked Mr R. B. Cant (Stoke-on-Trent Central.)

'Regulations stipulating what charges are to be included in the total charge for credit and how the rate is to be calculated were among those published on 8 March,' replied Mr. Fraser. 'I hope to make regulations requiring disclosure of the rate later this year.'

Government sales

Ministry of Defence

Sales by auction

24 March 1977—Furniture

Location
RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton, Staffs

Auctioneers
Arnold and Son (Dept L), 13 Market Place, Burton upon Trent, Staffs (tel. 0283 64657)

A sale of approximately 800 lots of household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities for the benefit of personal buyers.

31 March 1977—Miscellaneous stores

Location
The Great Danes Hotel, Ashford Road, Hollingbourne, Maidstone

Auctioneers
Fuller Horsey Sons and Cassell (Dept L), 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (tel. 01-248 7954)

Bedford ambulances, machine tools, woodworking machinery, Caterpillar tractor, lifting appliances, electrical and photographic equipment, a large collection of clothing, textiles, furniture and other stores.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Catalogues of government publications

Her Majesty's Stationery Office offer their customers a comprehensive service which will enable them to judge whether any other titles in the vast output of government publications would help them in their work or leisure. Full information about this service can be obtained by sending a postcard to Publicity Section, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Room C46, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, asking for the CATALOGUE SERVICE LEAFLET.

European community news

Council adopts guidelines for export credits

Commission proposals for the community to apply certain guidelines for government-supported export credits to third countries, on an experimental basis until 30 June, were adopted at the meeting of finance ministers in Brussels on 14 March.

Speaking at the beginning of the export credits debate in the Commons on 2 March, Michael Meacher, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, explained that the commission's guidelines[1] related to minimum pre-delivery payments, minimum interest rates and maximum lengths of credit.

Outlining the main effects, Mr Meacher said that they were to set minimum pre-delivery payments of 15 per cent of the contract value for sales to all markets; to raise to 7¼ per cent per annum the minimum interest rate for credits of two to five years inclusive, except for sales to wealthier markets where the minimum rate would be 7¾ per cent; and to set maximum lengths of credit varying between five and 10 years according to the relative financial strength of markets, while maintaining minimum interest rates on credits exceeding five years at, or above, the existing internationally-agreed levels. Certain classes of goods which were the subject of existing arrangements were excluded.

The commission's proposal needed to be set in its wider international context, he explained, for many years the major exporting countries had expressed their attachment to the principle of avoiding self-defeating export credit competition. But despite these expressions of general principle, at the operational levels progress towards greater uniformity of the terms of export credit had been very slow.

In the Berne Union, the OECD and the EEC, there were procedures for prior consultation or notification in certain cases, and there were understandings about the appropriate maximum terms for a few particular categories of goods. But for the most part these arrangements were confined to broad understandings about the length of credit.

In the middle of last year, Mr Meacher said, seven countries, including the UK (the number had since increased to nine) agreed to respect the guidelines which the commission had put forward for endorsement by the community as a whole. The UK decision was announced in the Commons by the Secretary of State for Trade on 15 June last year. The effect of the commission proposal would be that all nine countries of the community would apply the guidelines, to which the community as a whole would subscribe.

[1] Document I /427 /76.

These guidelines might be regarded as a modest step, Mr Meacher went on, but it should be recognised that they went a good deal further than the previous arrangements, in that they covered lengths of credit, interest rates, pre-delivery payments and even to some extent credit mixte facilities. Because of this they had been introduced experimentally until 30 June. They had no legal force, and individual countries had complete rights to derogate or withdraw altogether.

UK view on cost escalation

Turning to the commission's draft directive on cost escalation cover during the debate, Mr Meacher said it would be premature and tactically unwise for the community to tie the hands of its own members by laying down detailed rules for the harmonisation of cost escalation schemes, with a view to their eventual phasing out, before a wider international study had taken place. This was the line that the UK government had so far taken in the community when discussing the commission proposal[2] and the one that it proposed to take in the future.

Mr Meacher also said that the UK sympathised with the commission's attempt to secure a uniform community position, 'which we agree is desirable if we are to participate most effectively in wider international discussions. We shall certainly play our full part in attempts to achieve that position'.

But he stressed that essentially this was something that could be effectively pursued only in an arena wider than that of the community. 'There are important exporting nations outside the community that have a legitimate interest, and are important competitors of which we must take account.'

[2] S /752 /76.

Compete in Europe, compete in the world – Dell

Europe was the proving ground for exporters and if companies could compete in Europe they could compete in the world, Secretary of State for Trade Edmund Dell told a British Overseas Trade Board export conference in Maidstone on 9 March.

Mr Dell noted that Britain, as a member of the European community, was removing the barrier's to Europe's manufactured goods and had switched to Europe a great deal of its food purchases. He continued, 'We do expect in return not only to be able to sell manufactured goods in the community but to be allowed to compete fairly and freely in that area of commerce where we have won for ourselves a particular reputation for excellence – that is, in the provision of services.'

Mr Dell cited the insurance industry as an example of potential exports earnings from the community which he said was being frustrated by the restrictive attitudes taken in most of the other eight member states.

'At the moment, these other countries either ban the sale of insurance across frontiers without an establishment in the receiving country, and/or impose such tight controls and regulations on their insurance industry, that it is not possible in practice for foreign insurers to gain entry to the market unless they set up an establishment there.' This prevented UK insurers from achieving their full sales potential in Europe and their earnings from the other eight were proportionately less than would be expected given the size of their overall world business. Comparative figures showed that, while their 1975 net premium income from the world, excluding the UK and the EEC, totalled £1,300 million and earnings within the UK amounted to £1,000 million, those from the European community totalled only £292 million (see opposite page).

The UK's share in the trade of some really key markets had fallen during the past decade or so, Mr Dell said, and in the United States, for example, Britain's share of the imports of manufactured goods – in a market that was, as a whole, a growing one – was down by nearly two-fifths in the decade from 1965 to 1975. In Japan it had fallen by nearly a quarter and in Germany it was down by more than a quarter. And in France also it had fallen by over a fifth.

Looking at the European community as a whole, Mr Dell said that the UK had a 25 per cent smaller share of the import market in 1975 than in 1965. And altogether in 1975 Britain was supplying only just over 6 per cent of all the community's manufactured imports. Over the same decade, with the sole exception of the United States, everyone of those countries had increased its share of imports of manufactured goods into the United Kingdom.

'Since we joined the community,' Mr Dell said, 'at least the fall in our share of its market has been halted. The figure so far available for last year suggests that the EEC and Opec areas were the only major markets where out share increased. The trend was in the right direction in West Germany and the Benelux countries, though unfortunately not so in France and Italy.'

'In any case we cannot be satisfied with a situation where we managed to sell less than a third as much manufacures in the European community as does West Germany, where our crude deficit with the original six members of the community is nearly £2.5 billion.'

UK takes the initiative on insurance

EEC finance ministers adopted a UK proposal aimed at speeding up the negotiation of directives in the insurance fields at their meeting in Brussels on 14 March.

They agreed that work should be speeded up on the draft directives covering the sale of non-life insurance on a services basis and life insurance on an establishment basis and that the working parties should aim substantially to complete their work on these drafts within 12 months.

They also agreed that these directives should be in conformity with articles 52 and 59 of the treaty of Rome; and that, failing satisfactory progress, ministers should reconsider the position in March 1978.

An EEC 'general programme' provided for the negotiation of a series of directives to implement the common market in insurance by the end of 1969. But, to date, only directives covering freedom of establishment and services for reinsurers; motor vehicle liability; and freedom of establishment for non-life insurers have been implemented. A directive on transitional measures for insurance intermediaries was adopted by the foreign affairs council on 13 December and will come into force in the middle of next year.

The British government and the UK insurance industry are becoming increasingly concerned at the lack of progress in this field. UK insurers' earnings from the EEC are proportionately low in relation to those from the rest of the world. In 1975, their net premium earnings from fire and accident business totalled £2.7 billion, of which £1.7 billion came from overseas but only £0.3 billion from the EEC. The figures reflect the tight restrictions imposed by some other EEC countries on insurance business. The government believes that a stronger internal EEC market would benefit the EEC balance of payments as a whole by providing better capacity for the insurance of large business risks; producing more effective competition to other large insurers, including those of the United States and Japan; and inspiring other governments to try and negotiate reciprocal agreements with the EEC which would produce more liberal insurance regimes on a wider basis.

Vocational training centre opens

The European centre for the development of vocational training was officially opened in West Berlin on 9 March.

Its purpose is to assist the commission in encouraging, at community level, the promotion and development of vocational training and continuous further training. Its establishment was proposed as part of the social action programme adopted by the council of ministers in 1974 and decided by regulation (EEC) 337/75 of 10 February 1975.

The centre's research activities will be designed to contribute towards the implementation of a common vocational training policy in the community. In carrying out its tasks, the centre will establish appropriate contacts, particularly with specialised bodies, public and private, national and international, with public authorities and educational institutions, and with workers' and employers' organisations.

Last year special attention was paid to the problem of unemployment among young people with reference to vocational training, and to the difficulties of transition from school to work. After preliminary discussions in May, a conference was held on these subjects last December and further work will be done on them this year.

Also this year the centre will be involved in a number of other projects including a three-day conference in Berlin from 27 to 29 April on the compilation of selected documentation and the presentation of information; vocational training to meet industry's requirements arising from technical progress; and vocational training with reference to equal opportunities for women.

The centre's opening ceremony was attended by Henk Vredeling, vice-president of the commission responsible for employment and social affairs, Klaus Schütz, governing mayor of West Berlin, and Jean Degimbe, the commission's director-general for social affairs and chairman of the management board of the centre.

Agreement reached on common fund statement

Reporting to the Commons on 9 March on the outcome of the 8 March EEC foreign council, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Owen said that ministers had reached agreement on the main elements of an opening statement to be made by the presidency on the common fund negotiating conference which opened in Geneva on 7 March.

The establishment of a common fund, principally to finance commodity buffer stocks, was called for in a resolution adopted by the fourth United Nations conference on trade and development (Unctad IV) which met in Nairobi last May. Commodity policy was the central issue at the conference.

In his Commons statement Dr Owen explained that one point which was not completely resolved on the common fund concerned aspects of commodity financing on which work would continue. It would also be necessary, he said, to develop and elaborate the community's position in the course of the common fund conference. The community had committed itself to working constructively for a productive outcome and Secretary of State for Trade Edmund Dell had made it clear that the UK would make a positive contribution and would welcome discussion on all aspects of the question.

Foreign ministers also discussed the detailed preparation for the next European council meeting of EEC heads of government in Rome on 25 and 26 March, as well as representation at the forthcoming economic summit conference to be held in London on 7 and 8 May. Dr Owen said that differing views were expressed on whether the community should be represented at the London conference. No consensus emerged and some member states indicated that they would raise the issue at the European council.

Ministers heard a progress report on negotiations with third countries on fisheries questions, which were on the whole moving ahead satisfactorily, said Dr Owen. But Frank Judd, Minister for Overseas Development, had underlined the importance which the UK attached to a resumption of British fishing off Iceland and it was agreed that the commission would consult urgently with the committee of permanent representatives on how to take this forward. It was also agreed, said Dr Owen, that work should be pressed ahead on the reform of the community's internal fisheries regime in the high-level official group which met for the first time on 9 March, and in the agriculture council.

Ministers discussed the adaptation of the 1970 agreement between the community and Spain to take account of the accession of the UK and other new members in 1973 and agreed that the council would return to the issue at its next meeting on 5 April.

The council agreed that the work in hand on a mandate for negotiation of a second-stage agreement with Cyprus should be continued with a view to finalising it at the next council.

Finally, Dr Owen said that a large measure of agreement was reached on the community's handling of the Gatt negotiations on the renewal of the multi-fibre arrangement. Work would continue at official level on the outstanding issues in time for discussion in the Gatt textiles committee in Geneva.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and directive which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities:*

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 400/77 amending regulation (EEC) 3168/76 laying down the conditions for coupage and wine-making in the free zones on community territory for wine products originating in third countries (*Official Journal* L56, 1 March 1977).

Regulation (EEC) 458/77 correcting regulation (EEC) 2400/76 amending for the seventh time regulation (EEC) 2005/70 on the classification of vine varieties (*Official Journal* L60, 5 March 1977).

Processed agricultural products. Regulation (EEC) 419/77 amending regulation (EEC) 1061/69 as regards the methods of analysis for starch and for sorbitol (*Official Journal* L56, 1 March 1977).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 442/77 amending article 1 of regulations (EEC) 1586/76, (EEC) 1587/76 and (EEC) 1588/76 on imports of olive oil orginating in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco respectively (*Official Journal* L58, 3 March 1977).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 443/77 on the sale at a fixed price of skimmed-milk powder for use in feed for pigs and poultry and amending regulations (EEC) 1687/76 and 368/77 (*Official Journal* L58, 3 March 1977).

Cattle, beef and veal. The *Official Journal* L61, 5 March 1977 contains the texts of the following regulations:

Regulation (EEC) 425/77 amending regulation (EEC) 805/68 on the common organisation of the market in beef and veal and adapting regulation (EEC) 827/68, and regulation (EEC) 950/68 on the common customs tariff.

Regulation (EEC) 426/77 repealing regulations (EEC) 888/68 laying down general rules on special import terms for certain frozen meats intended for processing, (EEC) 990/68 on general rules for fixing the levy on certain kinds of frozen beef and veal, and (EEC) 752/74 on the extension of the list of products subject to the system of import licences for beef and veal.

Regulation (EEC) 427/77 adapting article 2 of regulation (EEC) 885/68 and article 3 of regulation (EEC) 1302/73 to the changes made in the common organisation of the market in beef and veal.

Regulation (EEC) 428/77 amending regulation (EEC) 989/68 laying down general rules for granting private storage aid for beef and veal.

Regulation (EEC) 429/77 amending article 1 of regulation (EEC) 98/69 laying down general rules for the disposal of frozen beef and veal bought by intervention agencies.

Regulation (EEC) 430/77 laying down general rules for the system of compensatory amounts for beef and veal.

Animal feedingstuffs. Directive 77/179/EEC, seventeenth commission directive amending the annexes to directive 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feedingstuffs (*Official Journal* L60, 5 March 1977).

Harmonisation of legislation

EEC pattern approvals. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* C53, 3 March 1977, contains a notice about EEC pattern approvals, published in application of article 5 of directive 71/316/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to common provisions for both measuring instruments and methods of metrological control. The pattern approvals are for measures of length and non-automatic weighing machines. Copies of *Official Journal* C53 may be obtained from HMSO, price 70p plus postage.

Alcoholmeters and alcohol hydrometers. Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L60, 5 March 1977, contains the following correction to directive 76/765/EEC (published in *Official Journal* L262, 27 September 1976) on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to alcoholmeters and alcohol hydrometers:

Page 147, annex, point 7 (1):

for: '-kg/m³ or % volume or % mass,'

read: '-kg/m³ or % vol or % mas,' . . .

Tariff quotas 1976–exhaustions:

HM Customs has stated that the United Kingdom's shares of the following EEC tariff quotas have been exhausted:

UK tariff heading /description of goods		HM Customs serial no. (part 11 of the UK tariff)
08.04 B(a) and b) Dried grapes		1103
ex 55.07 Cotton gauze **ex 55.09** Other woven fabrics of cotton **ex 58.04** Woven pile	*Woven on handlooms*	3678

Inquiries about current tariff quota balances may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.

Generalised tariff preference scheme (GSP): restoration of normal duties

Trade and Industry of 25 February gave details of GSP tariff quotas exhausted and GSP ceilings reached up to 11 February. HM Customs has stated that the position on the restoration of normal duties for the month ending 4 March is as follows (the Customs' quota reference is *given in brackets after the description of goods):

Tariff quotas and special ceilings

Tariff heading / description of goods	Date UK quota share exhausted	Community butoir reached: duty to be re-imposed: On date	For goods from
ex 29.23 DIII Glutamic acid and its salts (1533)	13.1.77	19.2.77	South Korea
42.02 B Travel goods etc – Of other materials (1596)	14.1.77	20.2.77	Hong Kong
51.04 Woven fabrics of mmf. (continuous), including woven fabrics of monofil or strip of heading no. 51.01 or 51.02 (3465)	5.1.77	22.2.77	South Korea
55.05 BII Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale: – Other, other – measuring per single yarn, per kg, 14,000m or less (6216)		19.2.77	India
ex 55.09 AII Other woven fabrics of cotton: – containing 85% or more by weight of cotton: Other – unbleached, of a width of: – 85cm or more but not more than 115cm (3694)	5.1.77	4.3.77	India
55.09 B Other woven fabrics of cotton: – Other (6313)	16.2.77		
56.07 A Woven fabrics of mmf. (discontinuous or waste): Of synthetic textiles fibres (3856)	5.1.77	25.2.77	Thailand
ex 59.04 Twine, cordage, ropes and cables, plaited or not – Of sisal (Agave Sisalana) (4002)	25.2.77	25.2.77	Mexico
61.02 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (6763)	5.1.77	19.2.77	India
61.03 Men's and boys' under garments, including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs (6798)	5.1.77	19.2.77	India
61.05 Handkerchiefs (6844)	31.1.77	4.3.77	India
61.09 Corsets, corset-belts, suspender-belts, brassieres, braces, etc (6879)		22.2.77	South Korea
62.02 Bed linen, etc (6909)	5.1.77	19.2.77	India
64.01 Footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or artificial plastic material (4479)	5.1.77	12.2.77	South Korea
64.02 B Footwear with outer soles of leather or composition leather, etc: – Other (4258)	5.1.77	19.2.77	South Korea

* See HM Customs tariff, part 11.

Tariff heading / description of goods	Date UK quota share exhausted	Community butoir reached: duty to be re-imposed	
		On date	For goods from
71.16 Imitation jewellery (4428)		12.2.77	Hong Kong
ø73.08 Iron or steel coils for re-rolling (4533)		28.2.77	South Korea
87.14 S/C Other vehicles (including trailers) not mechanically propelled, and parts thereof: – Trailers and semi-trailers: Other (4975)		22.2.77	Yugoslavia
90.05 S/C Refracting telescopes (monocular or binocular), prismatic or not (5016)		22.2.77	Hong Kong
92.11 A Gramophones, dictating machines and other sound recorders, etc: Sound recorders and reproducers (5032)		1.3.77	Hong Kong
98.15 S/C Vacuum flasks and other vacuum vessels, complete with cases: parts thereof, other than glass inners (5229)		22.2.77	Hong Kong

S/C Denotes special ceiling.

ø This item refers to limitation of imports charged against the UK quota for any one beneficiary country. (viz. decision 76/908/ECSC article 3).

Ceilings

Tariff heading /description of goods	Date of restoration of duties	
	From all sources	From particular sources (Inner ceilings)
42.03 B Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, of leather or of composition leather: Gloves, including mittens and mitts: – Protective, for all trades		Hong Kong 22.2.77
70.12 Glass inners for vacuum flasks or for other vacuum vessels		Yugoslavia 28.2.77

Inquiries about current availability of preferences may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.

EEC-Asean conference on industrial co-operation

Senior representatives from the industrial, commercial and financial sectors of the five Asean countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore) and those of western Europe are to meet at a major conference in Brussels on 4 to 6 April.

They will discuss possibilities of greater European participation in the industrial development of the Asean region, and also ways of further strengthening the trade links between the EEC and Asean member states.

The conference will be held under the co-sponsorship of the commission, the Asean governments and the banks of EBIC (European Banks' International – Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, Banca Commerciale Italiana, Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Deutsche Bank, Midland Bank, Société Générale de Banque, Société-Générale).

Each Asean country will send to Brussels a group of 20 government officials and senior businessmen, while the 260 European participants will be the chairmen or managing directors of a cross-section of Europe's major companies.

The conference will allow businessmen from Asean countries to come together to discuss specific projects with their European counterparts and will provide a unique opportunity for the governments of the Asean countries to present a composite picture of the trade and investment climate in south-east Asia.

Dynamisation of social security benefits

In a recent communication[1] to the council of ministers the commission has suggested that member states should adopt common principles for index-linking (or dynamising) social security benefits. The commission sees the aim as the evolution of all benefits in line with the evolution of average earnings. Mere price protection of benefits, it says, is not sufficient.

The document, which represents the commission's initial thoughts and final conclusions on dynamisation and is not a proposal for legislation, is in line with one of the objectives of the social action programme which was embodied in a council resolution on 21 January 1974. This called for the progressive introduction of machinery for the adaptation of social security benefits to the growth of prosperity in the member states.

The communication describes the various forms of dynamisation operating in the member states – on the basis of an earnings index or a price index or a mixture of both. It distinguishes between the approaches to dynamisation for long-term and short-term benefits and discusses the frequency and time-lag of adjustments to benefits and points out that in four states (Germany, Ireland, Italy and the UK) there is no provision for the systematic adjustment of family allowances.

The commission in its final conclusions acknowledges that the current economic crisis has affected the commitment of governments to systematic adjustment of benefits and says this is a powerful argument for not imposing tight community standards at this time.

[1] Com(76) 719 final.

Italian president for European parliament

Emilio Colombo, former Italian prime minister, was elected president of the European parliament on 8 March.

There were three candidates in the election: Signor Colombo (Christian Democrat, Italy), the outgoing president Georges Spénale (Socialist, France) and Michael Yeats (European Progressive Democrat, Ireland).

EIB supports industrial development in Tanzania

Under the terms of the Lomé convention, the European Investment Bank has agreed to provide assistance to industrial development in Tanzania in the form of risk capital.

The operation will comprise the purchase by the bank of convertible bonds to the value of 2.5 million units of account (equivalent to 23.3 million Tanzania shillings) to be issued by the Tanganyika Development Finance Company Ltd (TDFL). This will be the EIB's first intervention in Tanzania.

The funds to be provided to TDFL will be used by that company, with the bank's agreement in each case, to finance various industrial ventures throughout the country.

This operation is financed from the sum of 95 mua provided under the Lomé convention signed between the EEC and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) developing countries for various forms of risk capital assistance, the management of which is entrusted to the EIB.

The Tanganyika Development Finance Co Ltd was established in 1962 and its shares are held equally by the government-owned Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB) and three development agencies of EEC member countries: the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) of the United Kingdom, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (Entwicklungsgesellschaft) mbH (DEG) and the Nederlandse Financieringsmaatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V. (FMO).

UK opposes CAP price increases – Strang

Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that the government would be taking full account of the needs of British agriculture in the coming CAP price negotiations.

Speaking at a meeting of the ministry's south-eastern regional panel in Reading on 9 March, he said he had emphasised the UK's opposition to increases in CAP prices and to the commission's proposal for a green pound devaluation. 'We see no case for automatic common price increases and certainly not for any commodity which is in structural surplus.'

But this did not mean the government was ignoring, as had been suggested, the essential interests of producers or abandoning the expansion policy. 'Whatever modifications to the present proposals we achieve in our national interest, I am convinced that we shall have the opportunity to give our producers scope for expansion. This is particularly true for those agricultural commodities where we have made it clear that expansion is in the United Kingdom's interest.'

Overseas trade news

Steel: new anti-dumping prices and probe

New minimum price levels for steel reinforcing bars from Spain have been agreed, Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said on 14 March.

Answering a parliamentary question, Mr Dell said that an application for anti-dumping action against steel reinforcing bars from Spain was made in September 1975. A full investigation was begun but this was halted in February 1976 when a satisfactory undertaking about pricing policies was obtained from the Spanish producers.

'Since that time,' Mr Dell said, 'there has been a considerable increase in world steel prices and my department decided that a new undertaking should be sought.'

As a result of prolonged negotiations, the department and the Spanish government had agreed new minimum price levels on shipments to the UK. The new prices would be strictly controlled by the Spanish authorities.

The UK industry had been consulted about the agreement and Mr Dell said that they were satisfied with the new price levels.

The Department of Trade is to open an anti-dumping investigation into imports of non-alloy steel light sections and flats from Japan.

This follows a similar announcement on 1 February of investigations into imports of sections and flats from Spain and South Africa.

Investigations are still continuing into imports of South African reinforcing bars (on which a provisional charge to duty was imposed on 21 December).

A summary of the applicants' case for action against Japanese sections and flats will be made available to any interested parties who give an undertaking to treat the information contained in the summary in strict confidence. Any representations from interested parties should be submitted in writing not later than 8 April 1977. Such representations in summarised form and without attribution to the source may be passed to the applicants for comment. Those making the representations should stipulate any points which they do not wish to be disclosed.

Requests for copies of the summary, together with an undertaking in these forms, should be sent in writing to General Division, Department of Trade, Room 348, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SH.

BOTB chief executive visits Marley

Jim Wilks, chief executive of the British Overseas Trade Board, with Owen Aisher (left), chairman of the Marley Group, inspecting some of the company's range of floorcovering patterns. Mr Wilks visited the factory complex of the Marley Group at Lenham, near Maidstone on 8 March. The visit was in recognition of the exporting success of Marley Floors International Ltd. On 9 March the firm was one of four case studies presented to an audience of over 200 mangement and shop floor representatives at the BOTB's export conference at Maidstone.

Sweden considers introduction of product declaration scheme

A working group has been appointed by the Swedish Products Control Board to consider the introduction of a product declaration system for certain commodities, mainly in the chemicals sector, under the act on "Products Hazardous to Health and to the Environment – 1 July 1973". The declaration will probably be compulsory and will apply to all products produced or imported into Sweden in commercial quantities. Details of main application and complete composition, including known impurities, are likely to be required.

The working group is due to complete its work this month but it is unlikely that instructions will be issued until later in the year. Further details will be published as soon as they are available.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Chemicals and Textile Division, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU tel. 01-211 5419/7324.

Increased exports could create 400,000 jobs – Wilks

A 1 per cent gain in the UK's share of world trade would create about 400,000 jobs, and if Britain won a 5 per cent slice of what was imported some 150,000 jobs would be created. These points were made in a speech given to the Burnley Chamber of Commerce on 11 March by Jim Wilks, chief executive of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Mr Wilks said he was optimistic about the outlook for Britain's exports, and that a recent survey of the top 75 exporting companies shows that they forecast an increase in volume of about 6 to 8 per cent in the first half of this year over the same period last year.

Referring to Export Year, Mr Wilks emphasised that over 2,000 firms are now participating including about 200 in the north west. He said that one of the main aims of Export Year was to bring home at all levels of a firm's workforce the importance of exports for job security and living standards: the importance of having a healthy export order book and of seeing that export orders go out at the right time, at the right cost and the right quality.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1602: Imports from the Republic of the Philippines of certain knitted or crocheted under garments

As already announced, the EEC has negotiated with the Republic of the Philippines a restriction on imports into the UK of men's and boys' knitted or crocheted shirts and T-shirts of cotton or of synthetic textile fibres, originating in the Philippines. Pending enactment of community legislation, the provisions of the arrangement are being operated de facto as set out below. The goods affected and the quota established for the period 1 January to 31 December 1977 are as follows:

Tariff heading /description of goods	Quota
ex 60.04 Under garments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised, the following: men's and boys' shirts and T-shirts of cotton or of synthetic textile fibres.	650,000 pieces

Imports of these garments from the Philippines were already subject to UK surveillance licensing. Outstanding surveillance licences issued under those arrangements in respect of these newly restricted goods were revoked with effect from 11 March 1977.

Licensing arrangements
The Philippine authorities will administer the quota by issuing export certificates to their exporters for onward transmission to UK importers. These certificates, which will be issued by the Textile Export Board of the Philippines, should be sent by UK importers, together with a completed form ILB/A, to Import Licensing Branch at the address shown above, who will issue import licences up to the quota limit.

Goods in transit
The Philippine authorities will issue export certificates in respect of these newly restricted goods for consignments exported from the Philippines on or after 17 February 1977. Goods in transit to the UK on or before 16 February will count against the quota if exported from the Philippines after 31 December 1976 and will be licensed by Import Licensing Branch without the requirement for an export certificate to be produced, provided that satisfactory evidence of the date of shipment of such goods is supplied in support of a completed form ILB/A. Traders should apply to Import Licensing Branch, at the address shown above, in respect of such goods.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 367.

Advertising in 'Trade and Industry'

All advertising in *Trade and Industry* is now handled by T. G. Scott & Son Limited of 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED (tel: 01-242 6264 and 01-405 4743), and not by Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Trade and Industry continues to be published for the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection by Her Majesty's Stationery Office and all existing contracts and agreements will continue unchanged.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office will continue to handle all circulation and distribution matters, and subscription inquiries and queries should continue to be addressed to them.

Application for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering an application for the temporary exemption from import duty of the material listed below on the grounds that this material is not made in this country or the supply available is not substantial having regard to the existing UK demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for this material, or who are interested in its future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the authorising legislation and will remain in operation until 30 June or for such shorter period as may be justified.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a trade association, giving the reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 1 April.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
29.15	Oxalyl chloride	As in previous column	30 June 1977	G/T 16047

Revision of Customs export forms

Customs forms C273(1) and (4), and C63A(1) and (4), part of the aligned series of documents co-ordinated by the Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board (Sitpro), have been redesigned to align with the new Sitpro master from which they can be completed. At the same time the non-aligned companion forms C273(air) and C273(schedule) have been revised.

It is anticipated that supplies of the revised forms will be available at local Customs and Excise collectors' offices about now. Traders are advised to obtain their supplies promptly as the superseded forms in the above series will not be accepted by Customs after 16 April. Customs and Excise reminds traders that proofs of any privately-printed versions of these forms should be submitted for approval before printing to Branch GCE5, HM Customs and Excise, Room 19/S, Kent House, Upper Ground, London SE1 9PP.

Customs notice 276, which gives guidance on the completion of the forms, has also been revised and issued this month to all exporters and shipping agents who are involved in the Customs assigned number export pre-entry scheme. Copies of the notice will be obtainable from collectors of Customs and Excise.

Small firms export achievements recognised

Achievements in the export field of 10 small companies, each employing fewer than 200 people and between them responsible for nearly £7 million of exports a year, were publicly recognised at the presentation of the eighth annual export awards for smaller manufacturers at the Savoy Hotel on 10 March. Five were winners and five runners-up in the awards, which are sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, Association of British Chambers of Commerce, British Airways and the Smaller Business' Association. Each of the winners received an inscribed goblet and a two-week holiday in Kenya for an employee. Certificates of merit were awarded to the runners-up.

The winning companies were lighting column and transmission pole manufacturers, Cohen Bros (Electrical) Ltd, Manchester; paint manufacturers, The Hygienic Paint Co Ltd, Leeds; automation systems' makers, Quest Automation Ltd, Wimborne; electronic test equipment makers, Unit Automation Ltd, Tenterden; and alloy tubing manufacturers, Tungum Hydraulics Ltd, Cheltenham.

East European trade promotion by 93 British firms this spring

A total of 93 British companies are promoting their products and services in four east European countries during March and early April with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Two joint-venture groups consisting of 29 firms are taking part in the Leipzig spring fair which started this week (13 March). The fair provides British manufacturers with a unique opportunity for expanding their trade with the German Democratic Republic. The displays, arranged in association with the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association and the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, cover engineering products and scientific instruments.

BOTB is also supporting a joint venture group of 19 companies in co-operation with the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association at the USSR metrology exhibition from 29 March to 8 April.

Fourteen companies will be exhibiting, or represented, in a joint venture group at the Brno international packaging and printing trade exhibition from 4 to 8 April. The joint venture is organised in collaboration with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A trade mission of 18 members representing 12 metallurgical companies arranged in conjunction with the British Metalworking Plant Makers Association left the UK for Poland this week.

Today (18 March) a mission, co-sponsored by the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, is leaving for Moscow. Twenty industrialists representing 19 firms – three-quarters of them being from the west Midlands – are taking part. The group will be promoting capital and industrial equipment, particularly from the engineering and motor industries.

Bang and Olufsen to establish UK buying office

Bang and Olufsen, the largest radio and television manufacturing company in Denmark, is to establish a purchasing office in Gloucester to buy quality components. The company is initially interested in mechanical components, ferrous and non-ferrous raw materials, plastic raw material, adhesives, standard screws and washers, aluminium and magnesium pressure die castings, high-precision turned parts, and high-quality aluminium extrusions.

The establishment of a buying office in Britain by Bang and Olufsen has been achieved through the efforts of the British Overseas Trade Board's European components service (ECS), which is confident that the Danish firm will spend about £4 million on a wide range of British quality components during the next three years.

On 1 May, Morten Bagger a senior purchasing executive of Bang and Olufsen, will take up his post at the Gloucester premises of Bang and Olufsen's British subsidiary.

Bulgaria's seventh five-year plan

Opportunities now for Britain

Though the UK is currently lagging behind western competitors in exporting to Bulgaria, the latest Bulgarian five-year plan provides the opportunity to improve our share of the market, as this article from the British embassy in Sofia points out.

Bulgaria may be one of the smallest of the east European socialist countries but it is also one of the fastest-developing. From being a predominantly agricultural country – in 1944, 80 per cent of the working population was directly or indirectly employed on the land – Bulgaria has in a relatively short period developed its industrial capacity to a level where in 1975 only some 29 per cent of the population worked on the land and fixed capital employed in industry was approximately three times greater than that in agriculture. In 1950, agricultural produce accounted for some 90 per cent of Bulgaria's exports. At the end of the sixth five-year plan period (1970 to 1975) agriculture, although still of considerable importance to the economy, accounted for only one-third of total exports with industrial goods accounting for 61 per cent of the total.

In the industrial sector, Bulgaria has concentrated on heavy engineering, in particular ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, mechanical engineering and metal processing, the chemical, petrochemical and rubber industries, and electronics, which today account for more than half of total industrial output. In the mechanical engineering sector, emphasis has been placed on the manufacture of power and electro-technical machines. Production of machine tools and forging machinery, mechanical handling equipment, electric fork-lift trucks and warehouse equipment is increasing In the field of electronics, special attention is being given to the manufacture of electronic calculators, solid-state components and automation and control equipment. The chemical industry has also developed rapidly, particularly the manufacture of plastics, synthetic resins, man-made fibres, synthetic rubber, nitrogen and phosphate, fertilisers, sulphuric acid and soda ash.

As a result of these and other developments, very high growth-rates were achieved under the sixth five-year plan, both in gnp (46 per cent) and in industrial production (55 per cent) over the five-year period as a whole.

Bulgaria is poorly endowed with energy resources, possessing very limited deposits of high grade fuels such as bituminous coal, crude oil and natural gas and modest reserves of lignite and brown coal. The Bulgarian economy is therefore heavily dependent on imports of fuel, primarily from the Soviet Union, in particular crude oil, gas and coal.

The seventh plan

The plan – Bulgaria's seventh – for the period 1976-80 is based on the concept of efficiency and quality with emphasis on the need to expand and modernise existing plant and machinery with the application of modern technological processes. Approximately 16,000 million leva of capital investment has been earmarked for this purpose.

The plan calls for a 45 per cent increase in national income and a 55 per cent increase in industrial production – so no slowing-down in the high growth-rates of previous years is envisaged. The planned increases are, in the main, intended to be brought about by higher labour productivity; due to its small population ($8\frac{3}{4}$ million), Bulgaria has always suffered from a shortage of manpower. Labour productivity in industry is planned to increase by 50 per cent, expenditure on raw materials, fuel and energy is to be cut, production costs are to be lowered, and plant and machinery used to maximum capacity.

Machine building will continue to be a sector of prime importance within the industrial sector and the main growth areas will be the automotive, construction, metal casting and forging industries. The electronics and electro-technical industry, which is Bulgaria's second largest industry, will concentrate on communications and electronic calculating technology. In the chemical and petrochemical industry, the main area of growth will be in the production of modern polymer materials and fibres. In the textile industry, a wide programme of reconstruction and modernisation is planned.

The planned growth-rate for the agricultural sector (20 per cent) is less spectacular than for industry, but this sector will nonetheless continue to play an important role in the economy and is expected to continue to account for a significant proportion of Bulgaria's exports. The plan calls for a 40 per cent increase in labour productivity in agriculture and the application of modern methods of farming to ensure greater efficiency. Capital investment in agriculture under the plan will amount to over 30 per cent of total planned capital investment.

Bulgaria's foreign trade

In 1976, 80 per cent of Bulgaria's foreign trade turnover was with the socialist countries, the remaining 20 per cent being divided between the west and the developing countries. Exports to the west were about 10 per cent of the total, with imports from the west amounting to around 13 per cent. Trade with the Soviet Union alone accounted for about 54 per cent of Bulgaria's total foreign trade. This pattern is based on long-term trade agreements with the other socialist countries and is unlikely to alter to any significant degree in the future. Wherever possible, Bulgaria will continue to look to Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) countries for its sources of supply and principle markets.

Nonetheless Bulgaria will still turn to the west for much of the technology required to modernise its industry. With a planned increase in foreign trade of 60 per cent over the seventh five-year plan period, and with the continuing high rate of development, the value – if not the relative size – of the west's share in the Bulgarian market is expected to increase considerably. At the same time, however, partly due to shortages of foreign currency, Bulgaria has been increasingly concerned to reduce her trade deficit with western countries. In the future, therefore, the Bulgarians are increasingly likely to give preference to those companies who are prepared to facilitate the development of two-way trade – through industrial co-operation agreements and compensation trading, for example.

Prospects for British companies

The level of UK exports to Bulgaria has been disproportionately low and other western countries have achieved a much higher share of the market. In 1976, UK exports amounted to only £23 million, representing no increase on 1975. Nonetheless an increasing number of British firms are becoming aware of Bulgaria as a developing market and, despite Bulgaria's traditional pattern of foreign trade, specific opportunities for UK firms will continue to arise during the current plan period, in particular in the following industrial areas:

Heavy engineering: forge and foundry plant, third major iron and steel complex (construction expected to start in 1980).
Automotive components: exchange of components, part assembly in Bulgaria of more complex components.
Agriculture: equipment and know-how, particularly in the field of livestock rearing, and effluent treatment.
Food processing and packaging: complete lines for the manufacture of frozen pre-packed convenience foods.
Mining and power: possible requirement for know-how to help with the expansion of Bulgaria's mineral and energy raw material base – more specifically coal, non-ferrous ores and natural gas.
Chemical industry: artificial fibres, plastics, fertilisers.

The list is by no means exhaustive and in an article of this kind it is possible to give only a broad outline of the future prospects for Anglo-Bulgarian trade.

The trade mission from the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which will be visiting London, Birmingham and Glasgow during next week (21 to 26 March), will provide businessmen with an opportunity to acquire more detailed information. The forthcoming meeting of the UK/Bulgarian joint commission in London during the week commencing 25 March can also be expected to give added impetus to the development of trade between the two countries.

As to the mechanics of doing business in Bulgaria, there is no doubt that direct personal contacts are the most effective means of gaining entry to the market. Like other east European countries, the trading organisation is highly centralised and the initial contacts in most cases are made through foreign trade organisations which are empowered to act for, and sign contracts on behalf of, the end-users. Contact with the foreign trade organisations is relatively easy and can usually be arranged at short notice.

Exhibiting at trade fairs is an equally effective means of making direct contact with purchasing organisations in Bulgaria. The main event is the international trade fair held at Plovdiv in September each year. There has been an official UK pavilion for the last 10 years at Plovdiv and in 1976 over 20 UK companies were represented. During 1977 the Plovdiv fair authorities will also be staging specialist exhibitions devoted to agricultural machinery and food processing and packaging machinery (in June) and electrical and electronic consumer durables (in November).

Further information

Further information about the Bulgarian market and the sectors in which specific opportunities for UK firms are likely to arise can be obtained from the Department of Trade, Commercial Relations and Exports Division 4, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1 (tel. 01-215 3463/5257).

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

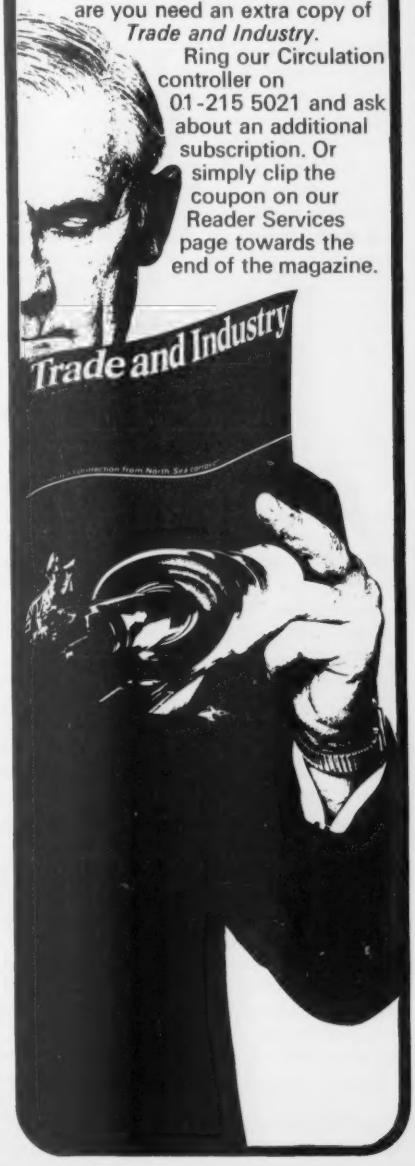
Half in the picture?

Keep yourself fully briefed. Get to know the facts. Every Friday, *Trade and Industry* brings you up-to-date information – on industry and commerce.

If you're not reading the current copy of *Trade and Industry* you're reading old news. And these days, news, if it's old news, is not much good to you – or your business.

Ensure you're the first with the facts – check the circulation list now. If there are more than four names on your list the chances are you need an extra copy of *Trade and Industry*.

Ring our Circulation controller on 01-215 5021 and ask about an additional subscription. Or simply clip the coupon on our Reader Services page towards the end of the magazine.



Overseas trade country data

Algeria

Legislation on pharmaceuticals. The Algerian government has published decree 76-139 of 23 October 1976 on the regulations governing pharmaceutical products. The regulations include the procedure for testing pharmaceutical products and for seeking authorisation for their sale in Algeria. No further information available.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5358/5225.

Australia

Tariff quota on drilling machines. The Australian government has announced that tariff quotas will be applied to imports of certain bench or pedestal drilling machines for the calendar year 1977. This follows the government's acceptance of the Temporary Assistance Authority's report of 24 December 1976 on 'Bench or Pedestal Drilling Machines not Power Fed'.

The authority found that urgent action was necessary to protect Australian industry against imports of those bench or pedestal drilling machines that are belt-driven pulley-operated, having a drilling capacity in mild steel not exceeding 60mm in diameter and falling within tariff item 84.45.3 of the customs tariff. The protection being accorded is a quota imposing a temporary additional duty of $A200 per machine for imports for Australian consumption in the calendar year 1977 in excess of 750 machines.

The new sub-heading becomes CCCN 84.45.5, and the present rate of duty will continue to apply, viz, 26 per cent general tariff and 19 per cent preference tariff, within the quota. Outside the quota the above rates will be payable, plus the $A200 on each machine abovementioned.

The quota entitlement of individual importers will be based on clearances for home consumption in the 12 months ended 30 June 1976. There will be a single allocation covering the calendar year 1977. Goods in bond or in transit on 25 February 1977 will be allowed entry at existing rates of duty if entered within 21 days of announcement or arrival, but quantities so entered will be debited against the total quota and individual quota entitlements as appropriate.

Similarly, goods entered on and from 1 January 1977 up to and including 25 February will be debited against the total quota and individual quota entitlements as appropriate. No special provision will be made for goods on firm order not in transit on 25 February.

Goods the produce or manufacture of New Zealand will not be subject to tariff quotas.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Industries Assistance Commission reference on metal-working machinery bounty. A notice in *Trade and Industry* on 4 February 1977 reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission requesting a review of the metal working machine tools bounty (tariff item 84.45.1; 84.45.2 and 84.45.3). UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence at the public hearing – the date and location of which will be published as soon as it is known – should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia, without delay.

Evidence may be submitted through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned, or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4FW, tel. 01-930 2524, who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 176/77

Anti-dumping: polyethylene sheet. A request has been received from Australian industry for anti-dumping action to be taken against imports of polyethylene sheet from the UK. The Australian customs representative in London will be asked to carry out the necessary inquiries to establish a normal value for these goods.

Copies of a leaflet 'Facts about the Australian Dumping Law' issued by the Department of Police and Customs are available from CRE, Room 336, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5318. Ref. CRE 36493

Canada

Textile and Clothing Board inquiry into imports of hats and caps. The Canadian Textile and Clothing Board is to undertake an inquiry into the effects of imports into Canada of hats and caps made of woven or knitted fabrics, including berets and toques, but excluding fur and fur-felt hats and caps.

Interested parties may submit briefs (10 copies) to the Secretary, Clothing and Textile Board, Room 716, Journal North Building, 300 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H5, by 28 March 1977. The contents of such briefs will be treated as confidential.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Colombia

Duty amendments. Decree 336 of 21 February 1977, modifies the duty and/or wording of the following tariff numbers:

15.04.04.03, 28.08.01.00, 28.08.02.00, 29.01.05.01, 32.09.02.00, 38.19.02.09, 39.01.02.01, 39.02.05.01, 69.08.00.00, 82.01.02.02, 84.11.03.99, 84.45.07.01, 84.61.04.00, 85.05.01.00, 90.16.01.02, 90.16.90.01

Additionally, this same decree adds tariff numbers 84.30.05.00 and 84.30.06.90 to the list of products subject to a reduced duty-rate of 5 per cent until 30 June 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Cyprus

Import levy. A special levy of 2 per cent has been imposed by the Cyprus government on imports into Cyprus with the following exceptions: foodstuffs, medicines, drugs, pesticides, fodder and fuel and all imports for semi-government organisations.

The levy will be refunded in the case of raw materials processed by local industries and re-exported.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/472/473.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Finland

Tougher credit restrictions on imports. The Bank of Finland has enlarged the list of imports which must be paid for in cash before Finnish customs will release them. The enlarged list will affect at least one-third of all imports and, because of low credit ceilings permitted at present in Finland, is bound to have an effect on some British exports.

Inquiries (with CCCN tariff no.): OTAR: 01-248 5757 ext. 459/460/461.

Excise taxes. The Finnish authorities have announced the following amended rates of excise tax on margarine, sugar products and motor vehicles:

CCCN	Description	Tax
15.13	Margarine tax	2.33Fmks. per kg
17.01	Tax on ordinary crystallised sugar (This rate is used as a basis for calculating the tax on other sugar products in tariff headings 17.01, 17.02 and 17.05)	0.15Fmks. per kg
87.01, 87.02, 87.09	Tax on vehicles using fuels and propellants other than petrol	Memorandum available

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

German Democratic Republic

Filing of patent applications. A copy of a translation of the order which came into force on 1 March 1976 in the German Democratic Republic setting out the requirements for drawing up and filing applications for inventions, is now available for public inspection at the Chancery House Annexe of the Science Reference Library (Holborn Division), Chancery House, Lower Ground Floor, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AY.

Greece

Delays to shipping. Dockers at Pireaus are staging a go-slow in support of a pay increase. Should this action continue, serious delays to British exports are likely.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5338.

Indonesia

New regulations for importing polyester fibre, gunny sacks and concrete iron. The Indonesian Minister of Trade has announced new regulations effective from 28 January 1977 to protect local industry. These affect the import of polyester fibre (CCCN 56.01.20) except high-tenacity fibre and fibre 3 in long and over, all kinds of gunny sacks (CCCN 62.03.10, 62.03.20), and all kinds of concrete iron (CCCN 73.10.30, 73.10.40, 73.10.75).

When the letter of credit is opened, which must be a banker's letter of credit, the importer must deposit:

1 100 per cent of the value of the goods.
2 An advance payment of the import duty in full.
3 A financial guarantee for 100 per cent of the total letter of credit value to be paid on the importer's account. This will be blocked by the bank until the entry of goods is completed. The importer must use his own funds. Bank credit is not permitted.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Regulations on the registration of food. The Indonesian Minister of Health has announced revised regulations on the obligatory registration of imported or domestically-produced foodstuffs, effective from 1 January 1977. All imported food must be re-registered even if previously registered.

Loan copies of the regulations are available on request from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Israel

Standards for marking of silver goods and copper alloy water cocks (stop valves). The following Israeli standards have been declared official and compliance with them is now compulsory.

IS no. 573	Marking of silver goods
IS no. 171	Copper alloy water cocks (stop valves)

The Standards Institution of Israel issues an English translation of the standard and copies may be obtained from the British Standards Institution Library, 2 Park Street, London W1, tel. 01-629 9000 telex 266933.

British exporters requiring technical advice are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ, tel. 0442 3111 telex 82424.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Import duty amendments. Amendments have been issued to the Israeli customs tariff affecting the following CCCN numbers:

73.12, 73.20, 78.06, 85.01

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Surcharge on milk and dairy products. Milk and dairy products are now subject to a surcharge as follows:

CCCN	Description	Rate of surcharge
04.01 04.02 04.03 04.04	Milk and dairy products	Special calculation

Note: Special calculation: The surcharge is calculated as the difference between the price which the holder of the goods has obtained or is likely to obtain for them and the cost price plus reasonable expenses and profits.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Italy

Extension of import surveillance on colour televisions, paper and paper products. In the *Informazioni per il Commercio Estero*, 2 February 1977, the Ministry of Foreign Trade announced that the surveillance on paper and paper products is extended to 30 June 1977 and on colour televisions until 31 December 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Lebanon

Tariff amendment. A press report in the local Lebanese newspaper *An Nahar*, 18 February, gave details of a custom's duty reduction for whisky as follows:

CCCN	Description		
22.09.C	Whisky: 1 Of an alcoholic strength of less than 50° put up for direct sale in bottles or similar containers of a capacity of 5 litres or less	Litre	200 Piastres
	the duty not to be less than	Value	30 per cent

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Malaysia

Tariff changes. The Malaysian Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1977 came into force on 27 January 1977. Under its terms, the following changes are made to the import tariff:

CCCN 84.06 International combustion piston engines, Diesel, stationary:
Sub-item 212 Exceeding 50 hp but not exceeding 164 hp (previously this read '199 hp') – federation common tariff rate 25%
Sub-item 213 Exceeding 164 hp but not exceeding 800 hp 10%
CCCN 84.10.410 Power-driven pumps, centrifugal, and
910 Parts for pumps, the federation common tariff rate is reduced from 30% to 10%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

South Africa

Metrication. As South Africa is now fully metricated in accordance with Système International (SI), exporters must ensure that their products comply with the regulations prescribing the use and scope of SI on all goods requiring identification in terms of quantity, dimensions or capability. Goods not complying with the regulations may not be imported into South Africa.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 5/77, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 25 February 1977, contains general proposals by the Secretary for Customs and Excise relating to rates of duty on condensation, polycondensation and polyaddition products classifiable under tariff heading 39.01.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Spain

Customs tariff modifications on strontium and lithium ores. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 16 February 1977, published royal decree 3288/1976 modifying the Spanish customs tariff to read as follows:

Tariff heading	Description	Import duty
25.32	Strontianite (whether or not calcined), other than strontium oxide; mineral substances not elsewhere specified or included; broken pottery:	
A	Lithium ores, whether or not concentrated	2.5%
B	Ground zircon, with at least 95 per cent by weight of the particles of less than 75 microns:	
1	Micronised, with more than 30 per cent by weight of the particles of less than 5 microns	15%
2	Other	7%
C	Other	2.5%

The above modifications are valid from 16 February 1977.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Public holidays. The following public holidays will be observed in Spain in 1977 (the feasts of the Ascension and St Peter and Paul are no longer to be taken as public holidays and Maundy Thursday becomes a full public holiday):

San Jose	Saturday	19 March
Maundy Thursday	Thursday	7 April
Good Friday	Friday	8 April
San Jose Artesano	Sunday	1 May
San Isidro	Sunday	15 May
Corpus Christi	Thursday	9 June
Fiesta del Trabajo	Monday	18 July
Santiago el Mayor	Monday	25 July
Asuncion de Nuestra Sra	Monday	15 August
La Hispanidad	Wednesday	12 October
Todos los Santos	Tuesday	1 November
Immaculate Conception	Thursday	8 December
Christmas Day	Sunday	25 December
Day in lieu of Christmas Day	Tuesday	27 December

In addition the British embassy will observe: the Queen's birthday, 10 June; summer bank holiday, 29 August; Boxing Day, 26 December.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5333.

Customs tariff modification to glass products. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 3 March, published royal decree 279/1977 of the Ministry of Commerce, modifying the Spanish customs tariff to read as follows:

CCCN	Description	Import duty
70.05	Glass in balls, rods and tubes, unworked (not being optical glass)	
B	Other	
3	Tubes	
a	Suitable for use in the manufacture of thermometers	8%

The above modification is valid from 3 March 1977.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Opening of global quotas. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 2 February, announced details of the Spanish global quotas for 1977. The Spanish authorities have now invited applications from Spanish importers, merchants and industrialists against the following quotas which are open for the whole of 1977 for their annual value.

For quotas numbers 2 to 6 inclusive, applications must be presented within 20 days from 7 March and for quota number 7, not later than 30 October 1977.

Quota number	CCCN	Goods	Value pesetas
2	14.05.A	Esparto	52,800,000
3	16.01, 16.02	Meat preserves	75,354,775
4	20.03, 20.04, 20.05, ex 20.06 20.07.B	Fruit preserves	76,454,925
5	19.04, 21.07.B 21.07.D	Miscellaneous food products	15,226,659
6	21.05	Soups and soup preparations	28,295,372
7	22.03	Beer	34,796,113

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Sweden

Tax amendments. The Swedish authorities have announced the following increased rates of equalisation tax on sugar confectionery:

CCCN	Product	Rate of tax in Kroner per 100kg
17.04 901-909	Sugar confectionery not containing cocoa, with the exception of fondant pastes, almond pastes, creams and other similar intermediate products, in bulk	90
18.06 102-302, 909	Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa, with the exception of ice cream, ice cream powders and puddings; also powders, flakes, pastes and liquid preparations for the manufacture of beverages	90
19.08 103-105	Biscuits and wafers	90
21.07 ex 901	Confectionery not falling within any other heading, with the exception of pulp, pastes and other similar intermediate products in bulk	90

In addition they have announced the following increased rates of special relief tax on certain fuels:

CCCN	Product	Rate of tax in Kroner per 100litres
22.08 ex 009	Ethyl alcohol or ethanol intended for motor fuel	6
27.10 151, 159, 200, 351, 352, ex 359	Petrol	6
27.10 701-708	Motor fuel oils, heating oils and tanker oils	7
27.10 ex 359 ex 500	Other motor fuel containing at least 70 per cent by weight of petrol	6

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 488/461.

Thailand

Special import fee on tiles. The government of Thailand has introduced Board of Investment notice 4/2520 whereby a special fee of 15 per cent of the cif price is placed on the import of floor tiles, wall tiles and hearth tiles, glazed and unglazed, which come under CCCN 69.07 and 69.08.

The Office of Board of Investment shall determine which imports fall into this category, so as to protect industries which have promotional privileges.

This notice came into effect on 9 February 1977 and remains in force until 31 December 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

United States

Imports of speciality steels under quota. Further to the notice which appeared in *Trade and Industry* on 11 March 1977, the following table, derived from statistics made available by the US customs service, shows the products which are subject to quotas, the US quotas on imports from the EEC for the 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977, and US imports of the products concerned from the EEC during this period, as at 4 March 1977.

Product	US import quotas for 12 months 14 June 1976 to 13 June 1977 (pounds weight)	US imports during this period as at 4 March 1977 (pounds weight)
Sheet and strips of stainless steel (Item 923.20)	31,600,000	26,379,699
Plates of stainless steel (Item 923.21)	5,800,000	Quota filled
Bars of stainless steel (Item 923.22)	5,000,000	1,558,093
Wire rods of stainless steel (Item 923.23)	14,800,000	Quota filled
Bearing steel (Item 923.25)	7,000,000	2,397,629
Alloy tool steel (Item 923.26)	6,800,000	Quota filled

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Medical devices. The United States *Federal Register*, 1 March 1977, published rules proposed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for goods manufacturing practice for the manufacture, packing, storage, and installation of medical devices. Written comments (five copies) should be sent by 29 June 1977 to FDA, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville MD 20857.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Uruguay

Import of hexachlorocyclohexane-based pesticides prohibited. A resolution of the Uruguayan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries dated 12 January 1977 prohibits the importation, manufacture or formulation of hexachlorocyclohexane-based pesticides and preparations for the control of diseases of animals and plants.

A copy of the resolution in Spanish is available.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Concessions to various industries extended. Decree 53/977 of 26 January 1977, extends until 31 December 1977, the exemptions from surcharges, dues and taxes on imports of machinery and equipment for use by the following industries:

The leather footwear industry
The woollen textile and woollen goods industry
The marble and granite industry
The tanning industry
The leather clothing and fancy goods industry

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

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ENCIRCLE TI 435 ON PAGE 743 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Overseas trade exhibitions

British jewellery fair dents traditional ideas

From Robin Lavery, British embassy, Tokyo

The first major British jewellery and giftware exhibition in Toyko was held at the British Export Marketing Centre from 1 to 5 March.

Led by Mr J. W. F. McConnell, export marketing executive of the British Jewellery and Giftware Federation (BJGF) and accompanied by Mr P. Spacey, chairman of the Export Council for the Jewellery and Giftware Industries and sales director of Steele and Dolphin Ltd, a participating company, a total of 28 British companies took part. The combined effort of British exhibitors and the BOTB resulted in one of the most tasteful and attractive events yet seen at the marketing centre – this was the comment from the Japanese jewellery and giftware trade.

With some notable exceptions British jewellery and giftware has still to be discovered let alone accepted.

Although attendances were up to average the first few days were 'slow' as far as order taking was concerned. This is however a common feature of trade exhibitions in Japan and it was to the credit of the majority of participants at the de-briefing session before to the opening of the final morning that optimism about future potential for increased market penetration in Japan still ran high. Some three-quarters of the exhibitors were enthusiastic about returning.

There were some surprises in store on the final day when a number of additional orders were placed, some during the final minutes of the show, and other firms were able to take considerable steps in deciding on appropriate representation in Japan.

The exhibition dented ideas held that nine carat gold and silver jewellery is not acceptable in Japan. It is clear that Japanese trade buyers were unaware of the varied range of designs available from the UK, and a number of the Japanese visitors were impressed with what they saw.

Besides orders taken at the exhibition and introductions to a number of new contacts, the event provided a valuable source of market information in product areas where British and Japanese businessmen were not particularly knowledgeable about each other's activities.

A number of exhibitors expressed the view that now more is known about trends and tastes in Japan and by the Japanese on the ranges of existing British products available, they should return to Japan with a more acceptable range of products; rings for example should be small for the petite Japanese lady, emphasis might be put on hand-crafted jewellery (which attracted much interest) and on bracelets, pendants and charms.

In the giftware field, there was also an interest in obtaining immediate business but for the long term most of the exhibitors clearly saw the need to come to good working relationships with a local importer or distributor as the sale of imported giftware here requires a reliable and extensive distribution network.

Trial orders were placed with some of the newcomers and all firms received expressions of interest for representation which are currently being followed up. With a growing trend towards western-style living in Japan, there is an increasing interest in tableware (glass and pottery), table and kitchen accessories and other household goods which fall within giftware product ranges.

In spite of most of the exhibitors entering the market for the first time some good results have been achieved. A few companies such as Jane Allen (Jewellery), Laughton and Sons, Pearson Page Jewsbury Co, Eton Jewellery and Eaton and Wrighton had previous experience of the market and were here to build on their earlier efforts. One of two companies were seeking new agents and despite earlier disappointing starts in Japan were confident of substantially increasing their sales. Two companies Aristocraft Ltd (gift box sets and boxes) and International Packaging (gift boxes) had the courage to come to Japan to take on local competition in what is a highly developed and competitive local market.

It is clear that our jewellery and giftware manufacturers have great potential in Japan. But considerable efforts on the part of British manufacturers will be needed to build on the interest shown but it has assisted considerably those who already have a foothold in Japan.

Mr McConnell commented that once the problems of communication and the ways of doing business here have been mastered, British companies with marketable products should confidently expect to achieve considerable sales in this tasteful, lucrative and sophisticated market.

Overseas publicity for UK trade fairs

British commercial representatives overseas are keen to publicise UK trade fairs and exhibitions and welcome posters and brochures from fair organisers. But material must be sent well in advance—at least three clear months ahead of the event—and in sufficient quantity—two or three dozen copies for the representative in each area. A full list of addresses of commercial representatives is published as a quarterly supplement to *Trade and Industry*.

Agency agreements follow Canadian hardware

From Kenneth Sayce, British consulate-general, Toronto

Coliseum buildings, in the world's largest permanent, covered, exhibition centre, the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto was the site for the annual Canadian hardware show held from 13 to 16 February. The four-day show was attended by some 25,300 visitors, a larger number than 1976. It is a trade show for manufacturers, agents and distributors. The range of products covers the traditional hardware range of products, from guns, tents, fishing-rods, garden accessories and plants, to fasteners, tools, fencing, kitchenware.

A joint venture of 13 British companies, sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and The Hardware Manufacturers Association, exhibited British-made hardware items, attractively displayed to their best advantage. Most of these exhibitors were returning after a number of years at this show, as they considered that it was one of the major north American trade shows. This, larger than ever exhibition was housed in three adjoining buildings and even so, some 150 companies were waiting hoping for cancellations which would allow them to rent a booth. Some 1,300 booths were occupied by 550 exhibitors including foreign-government sponsored exhibits from Australia, Brazil, India and Korea.

The British companies were generally pleased with the block arrangement of the British booths and with the results of the show. Ten of the companies already had Canadian agents who assisted with manning the booths. Two of the three companies, at their first Canadian hardware show, successfully negotiated agency arrangements. The other, not seeking an agent, will become a regular supplier to several large departmental stores.

British products exhibited included; hand tools, builders hardware, horticultural plasticware, garden furniture, garden sprayers, kitchen knives and utensils, padlocks, lamps, housewares, fry-pans and plastic industrial buckets. The British companies estimated that a $250,000 worth of business had been done at the show and over the coming year about $1 million of business would result. One company, which had attended this show for many years, successfully concluded a supply arrangement after negotiating for the past two years. Another firm attending for the first time was amazed at the amount of business done and number of agency inquiries received.

The general opinion of exhibitors at the Canadian Hardware Show is that while it is not primarily buying and selling, the long-range benefits are good.

Visitors and buyers came from the United States, China, India, Taiwan, Australia, as well as from Toronto and other Canadian provinces.

The Canadian Hardware Association, who organise the show, said that it had been 'an excellent show' and they hope that in 1978, 12 to 15 February, there will be more space available for exhibitors who have not been able to obtain a booth.

British companies had a successful Canadian hardware show and most of this year's exhibitors said they wanted to come back next year.

UK exhibitors 'optimistic' after Miami show

From David Moore, British consulate-general, Atlanta

Some $65 million worth of boats, engines and marine accessories of all types were displayed by more than 550 international and national firms at the Miami international boat show held at the Miami Beach convention center from 18 to 23 February.

The exhibitors represented almost every aspect of the yachting and marine industries.

The theme of this year's annual Miami International Boat Show was 'Boat Show Goes Goombay', featuring the people and Islands of the Bahamas. Ceremonies which were provided by the Islanders included the Royal Bahamian Police Band, a native steel band; dancing; the whole enhanced by the presence of colourfully dressed Bahamian officials.

The exhibitors in the 'international group', some exhibiting through their United States representatives, were from the UK, Hong Kong, Poland, Italy, West Germany, Austria, Japan, France, Canada, Sweden and Australia.

Those exhibitors sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Ship and Boat Builders National Federation, occupied booths in a hall built as a result of an expansion of the convention center from 36,000m² to 45,000m², and a large boat space in the north hall of the center.

While there were no outstanding sales successes reported by the British exhibitors, nevertheless, they were optimistic that the many inquiries received would result in future sales. Several of the British companies succeeded in appointing new dealers.

UK companies make hit at Pittsburgh

From R. F. Gash, British consulate-general, Cleveland

Nearly 10,000 scientists came to Cleveland, Ohio, for the annual Pittsburgh conference on analytical chemistry and applied spectroscopy which was held at the Convention Center on 28 February to 4 March. This convention and exhibition must be ranked among the largest of its type in the world and is certainly the largest in the United States, drawing as it does participants from such diversified areas as energy, environment, medicine, foodstuffs and other interests vitally concerned with analysis and research in the world of chemistry and physics.

Apart from the actual conference, where 494 individual papers were read by scientists from all over the world, the exhibition drew 360 companies who displayed and demonstrated their equipment on about 700 booths. Prominent were a number of British companies which were participating under the sponsorship of the British Overseas Trade Board and the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association.

Much to offer

The products and services provided by the companies making up the British joint venture highlighted the fact that British industry has much to offer the visiting scientists, many of whom have a major impact on purchasing policies. Electrothermal Engineering Ltd, a firm specialising in heating apparatus for the laboratory, and Cathodeon Ltd, specialising in vacuum/glass electronic devices, were both impressed by the quality of the inquiries being made on their stands, while Techne (Cambridge) Ltd reported that its United States affiliate would be busily engaged for some time to come on following-up expressions of interest. Similarly, the chromatography columns having interchangeable fixed or variable length end pieces made by Biolab Ltd were attracting a good deal of attention and the analysis service offered by BMAC Ltd was exciting the interest of potential customers.

The 1976 show generated an estimated $60 to 70 million worth of additional business for exhibitors. Judging from the spirit at the 1977 show, many present believe that money is now being re-injected into research activities after a lull due to the recession. Certainly the spate of inquiries, and the quality, indicated that excellent business will be forthcoming to those companies which participated at this twenty-eighth Pittsburg conference.

Over £½m taken at Stockholm boat show

Phyllis Dixon, British embassy, Stockholm

In spite of the snowy weather a record number of visitors flocked to the Stockholm exhibition centre for the international boat show which was held from 24 February to 6 March. The attendance of 140,000 exceeded the 1976 record by 10,000.

Sales for the 16 British companies on the joint-venture stand sponsored by the Ship and Boat Builders' National Federation totalled £552,000 and further business worth over £2 million is expected. This was an agreeable surprise to some of the exhibitors, who had heard before the show of a down-turn in the Swedish market because of the general economic situation.

Largest stand

A total of 698 companies from 18 countries were either represented or themselves exhibited on 306 stands in the two halls

Mr J. C. Petersen, the new British ambassador in Sweden, and Mrs Petersen examining a boat on the Island Yachts stand at the Stockholm boat show.

and overflowed into the outdoor part of the exhibition ground. A net area of over 17,000m² was used. The British joint-venture stand (the only national stand), which occupied an area of 1,386m², was the largest in the main hall.

Both King Carl XVI Gustaf, a keen sailor, and Crown Prince Bertil, who officially opened the fair, visited the British stand during their tours of the exhibition. Both were met by the new British ambassador, Mr J. C. Petersen, who himself made an official tour of the British stand as soon as the exhibition opened.

All of the British joint-venture companies regarded their participation as worthwhile. Some were particularly pleased with the results. Marine Projects (Plymouth) Ltd, which exhibited four boats in its Princess range, reported both firm and potential orders as very encouraging. The Cobramold stand, with three Leisure-class yachts on display, attracted a great deal of interest – as did the Westerly Marine stand with its two well-known yachts, the Renown and the GK24. Seamaster Ltd, which showed its large cabin cruiser (Seamaster 30) was very optimistic about future sales and Shetland Boats Ltd, which has 22 dealers in Sweden reported a large number of serious inquiries.

British products were also well-represented in other parts of the exhibition. Leyland Thorneycroft engines, Lewmar Marine winches and Marlow ropes, to mention only a few, were prominently displayed on their agents' stands.

A total of 69 British firms were represented, a 10 per cent share which clearly indicates the importance the British industry attaches to the Swedish market, in which it is the fourth most important supplier of pleasure craft (after Norway, Sweden and Denmark). Certainly this is the view of British exhibitors at Stockholm who are now building on the high reputation established after considerable effort in one of the most demanding markets in western Europe.

Building for Billions attracts visitors world-wide

From L. Rubinstein, British embassy, Copenhagen

Between 18 and 27 February 135,344 visitors passed through the turnstiles at the Bella Center exhibition halls in Copenhagen to see the infinite variety of products, systems and services on display at 'Building for Billions '77'.

Attendance at this seventh and largest in a series of biennial exhibitions was 20 per cent up on the 1975 event despite the fact that the building industry in Denmark is still smarting from the effects of its recession two years ago and seems to be heading for another downturn.

Organised by the Danish Building Centre, the exhibition maintained its customary high standard. Seven product groups, each allied to the various stages of the building process, were assigned individual sections. As in previous years, a lot of space was devoted to heating, ventilating and sanitary installations and products, the accent being on insulation and other energy conserving measures to tie in with the official fuel saving campaigns currently being conducted.

The British Overseas Trade Board co-operated with the Building Materials Export Group in arranging joint venture participation by 10 British firms. On 22 February, the British stands were visited by the British ambassador, Anne Warburton together with Guy Simmons, commercial counsellor, and representatives of the Danish Building Centre.

Talks with the British exhibitors on the last weekday of the exhibition revealed general satisfaction with the number and nature of inquiries received, even by those whose products would have found a more natural position in other parts of the exhibition halls. Some firms reported great interest from overseas visitors, which once again confirmed that the exhibition serves as a useful vehicle for selling not only in the host country but also in many other world markets. The overseas visitors office recorded trade visitors from all parts of Scandinavia and Europe as well as from more distant countries such as Iceland, Greenland, USSR, Iran, Japan and China. A group of 150 architects and builders from Ljubjlana in Yugoslavia had chartered a plane especially for a two-day trip to the exhibition.

Saltree which exhibited its re-designed vertical blinds successfully negotiated a joint venture with a Danish company and a new firm is to be established for assembly work and marketing in the Nordic countries. Orders and inquiries received on the stand ran into many thousands of kroner and this has assured initial success for the new Anglo-Danish firm. Errut Products repeated the successes of previous years and estimated an extra £200,000 worth of business if all the inquiries received come to fruition. Many of these were from Portugal, Spain, Italy, Egypt, Austria, Germany, Finland and Greenland. Also a handsome contract for floor maintenance work in one of the large Swedish automobile industries is being negotiated. Key Terrain claimed that the exhibition had provided them with 35 new contacts and that they had been invited to quote for drainage systems for 18 buildings in Greenland. Tirfor has now obtained approval from the Danish authorities for its suspended access equipment, and was full of enthusiasm about future prospects in the Danish market and the firm was pleasantly surprised by the number of qualified inquiries received.

White Seal Stairways appointed a distributor for their staircase systems, by no means an easy product to sell in this competitive market.

Target Windows at the close of the exhibition was to decide with which out of the many firms that had approached them for the franchise, the company would start negotiations.

From talks with the organisers at the end of the exhibition it became clear that it has gained full recognition as the most important event of its kind in Scandinavia, and this was confirmed by the tremendous interest shown by exhibitors and others in the next event scheduled for 1979 where at least one-third of the space has already been booked.

UK equestrian firms at Essen

Stanley Johnson, managing director of the Harewood Carriage Co of Holsworthy, Devon, discussing one of his company's pony carriages with a German visitor to Equitana held at Essen from 2 to 7 March. The British equestrian industry was well represented by a group of 36 firms backed by the British Overseas Trade Board presenting a large variety of products for sport, riding and stable management.

Overseas trade export services

Meadows launches direct Chicago service . . .

A new, scheduled airfreight consolidation service direct to Chicago – offering four departures weekly from London Airport (Heathrow) – has been launched by Meadows Airfreight Ltd. Airport break-bulk and destination services in the Chicago area are provided in association with Airborne Freight Corporation, Meadows' established partners for transatlantic airfreight operations.

Meadows Airfreight already provides a wide range of consolidation services to United States markets, with break-bulk operations concentrated at New York, Boston and Dallas airports and regional and local destination services provided through the company's United States agency network.

In the UK, the Meadows' range of over 30 regional offices and depots offer radio-controlled vehicle collection services, integrating with overnight road trunking for the delivery of export consignments to the company's Heathrow Airport depot at Colnbrook.

. . . and signs with BA contract rates scheme

Meadows has also become one of the first major UK forwarders to sign with British Airways for the carrier's recently-launched contract rates scheme for transatlantic air cargo.

The scheme offers special contract rates for shipments over a certain annual volume and, says Meadows, the new tariff structure provides a generally lower cost for all shipments over 100kg so that the firm can reduce the delivered cost of airfreight shipments to virtually all points in the United States.

Further information: circle 175

Airfreighting documents door-to-door

Jetpak International has launched a door-to-door, trans-world document express service – Jetpak – costing less than normal airport-to-airport consignment.

A pre-paid, fixed price, no-weight-limit, satchel-operated service, Jetpak costs £15 for each delivery in Europe and £20 for the rest of the world. Jetpaks can be bought in bulk, allowing the user to pre-cost and budget all his courier-type communication requirements.

Consignments are collected by one of Jetpak International's radio-controlled courier cars and taken to the airport where the satchels are stowed in special Jetpak waterproof and indestructable containers for safe in-flight transportation.

Further information: circle 176

Container fleet commissioned for Scotch exports

A new tank-container fleet for moving Scotch whisky exports from the UK to the markets of the United States east coast is currently being commissioned by Seatrain UK Ltd.

Seatrain already carries cased Scotch exports to the United States and the company is now adding bulk transport capacity with the purchase of 50, 40 ft × 4 ft high, twin-barrel ISO tank containers. The first of the new stainless steel units, each of which has a capacity of 4,000 gallons (18,000 litres), entered service late last year, and the entire fleet will be in commission shortly.

In regular operations, Seatrain will carry tanks on each of its weekly sailings to the United States east-coast ports from the UK. The tank units are used solely for whisky traffic, moving bulk shipments from Scottish distilleries for bottling in the United States.

Seatrain UK serves shippers and consignees through five regional customer service centres in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow and Southampton, with agencies in Belfast and Dublin to cover shipments to and from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Further information: circle 177

One of Seatrain's twin-barrel ISO tank containers.

News of services for exporters

If your company has recently introduced a new service for exporters – in, for example, the packing, forwarding, shipping, airfreighting, banking or translation fields – we would be glad to have details, plus a good black and white photograph where appropriate.

Items for inclusion in our fortnightly 'Export Services' feature should be addressed to the Overseas Editor, 'Trade and Industry', Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1.

Advertisers who wish to be associated with this feature should contact Mike White at T. G. Scott's on 01-242 6264.

Ipswich-Rotterdam ro/ro service starts this week

North Sea Ferries' *Normandica* made her inaugural voyage from Rotterdam (Europoort) to Ipswich on Monday (14 March), returning to Rotterdam the following day. The service will operate daily six days per week in each direction, with sailings from Ipswich at 1100 hrs and from Rotterdam at 2300 hrs.

The vessel is capable of carrying 75/80 × 12m trailers or equivalent and drivers' accommodation is available. At Ipswich, the service operates from the West Bank Ferry Terminal, which has been constructed by the Ipswich port authorities.

North Sea Ferries also operates ro/ro passenger/freight services from Hull to Rotterdam and Hull to Zeebrugge.

Further information: circle 178

LEP introduces Gibraltar container service

Lep Transport has introduced a groupage container service for shipments from the UK to Gibraltar.

Operating via the port of Ipswich, the service is co-ordinated through Lep Transport's Ipswich office, with feeder services operating from Lep's nationwide network of depots throughout the UK. The transit time is approximately six days and there are up to three sailings per month.

Lep's agent in Gibraltar – Transport Services Company – is an active partner in the operation and completes the door-to-door aspect of the service.

Further information: circle 179

Emery starts new service and negotiates agreement

Emery Air Freight has introduced a new 'economy service' from the UK to the United States on British Airways flights and negotiated its first aggregate rate agreement with a north American airline.

The economy service will operate twice weekly – Wednesdays and Saturdays – and all freight acceptable for airline containers on passenger flights is eligible for the economy rates, which are also available to shipments handled by Emery's Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow offices.

Other Emery services to the United States will not be affected. Daily forwardings via the standard expedited service will continue, and will be used unless the new service is specified except for freight picked up from shippers on Tuesdays or Fridays, which will be shipped by the economy service automatically on the next morning's flight.

Under the terms of the aggregate agreement with Nordair, a regional Canadian carrier, Emery will receive a 40 per cent discount on the airline's general rates for guaranteeing it 750,000 lb of freight over the year 1977. If Emery should reach the million-lb mark, the discount will climb to 47 per cent.

The airline serves such cities as Hamilton, Montreal, Ottawa, Windsor, Quebec, Chibougamau, Val d'Or, Matagami, Fort George, La Grande, Fort Chimo, Deception, Frobisher Bay, Hall Beach, Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay/Strathcona Sound.

Further information: circle 180

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Mathies extends Swedish service

Mathies-UK Line, the only scheduled liner service from the UK to the Swedish capital Stockholm, is co-operating with National Carriers Ltd, the National Freight Corporation subsidiary, to extend its groupage facilities to Sweden.

Mathies already offers customers receiving facilities for Sweden at Felixstowe but, by joining forces with National Carriers, receiving facilities are now available at some 27 National Carriers main depots throughout the country, including three in London. Shippers will no longer have to move their own goods to Felixstowe. They can be delivered to the nearest National Carriers depot or National Carriers will collect at no extra cost and then despatch by 'Medallion' assured service to Mathies depot at Felixstowe for direct shipment to Stockholm, Norrkoeping or Gavle.

In addition to the new groupage service, Mathies continues to provide weekly sailings from Felixstowe to Stockholm, Norrkoeping, Gavle and Rotterdam for containers, general cargo and heavy lifts.

Further information: circle 181

Wire drawing machinery shipped ACL

Part of a £1.2 million export order for wire drawing machinery being loaded aboard the Atlantic Container Line ro/ro containership *Atlantic Crown* at Southampton. Engineered and marketed by Hi-Draw Machinery Ltd of Romsey, the machines are to be installed in a new factory being built by Bridon American Corporation at Hanover Township, Pennsylvania. The shipment weighed 155 tons and consisted of 13 trailers carrying six wire drawing machines and ancilliary equipment. To complete the order a further shipment of approximately the same size will be made later this month.

Further information: circle 183

New exports display pack

A Great Britain-oriented display pack has just been produced by Aldisplay to help the smaller company with exporting interest.

Supplied as a 432mm x 355mm flatpack, the kit comprises nine free-standing items and a small Union Jack poster with a blank central oval, which is suitable for many uses from stand identification to special announcements. All nine of the main units are single-sheet items designed to be made ready for display in moments with neither adhesives nor written instructions required.

Bobbies and Beefeaters

Most eyecatching of the standing units are three colourful uniformed figures, each about 254mm high, and all with a 'typically British' cachet – a Beefeater, a bobby, and a busbied guardsman. A second trio is a set of double-cube assemblies, all with Union Jacks on each of their six sides, and bearing the legend 'Made in Great Britain by great Britons'. These may be used individually or together in a wide variety of display formations, and are complemented by two stand-up cards, one of them double-sided and both with the same motif and legend as the units. To round off the kit there is a robust hang-or-stand showcard featuring a fluttering Union Jack.

The cost is £2.70 per pack, reducing according to quantity. Special slogans or overprinting can be arranged.

Further information: circle 182

JAPAN

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Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million 18,209	10,399	1,807	1,976	£ million		
1970	100	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,087	280	807
1972	104	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	131	−702	833
1973	110	35,935	10,279	1,872	2,390	1,127	404	102	382	−752	−2,334	1,582
1974	110	35,612	10,087	2,024	2,289	604	666	81	−111	−3,380	−5,221	1,841
1975	108	35,374	9,967	1,737	1,970	−699	−392	−111	−23	−1,635	−3,195	1,560
1976		35,571 pe		1,653 p	1,893 p		−42 p	46 p	1 p	−1,423	−3,592	2,169
1974 2nd qtr.	111	8,814	2,436	502	573	321	197	43	19	−887	−1,373	486
3rd qtr.	112	8,956	2,476	501	556	330	358	3	−39	−772	−1,236	464
4th qtr.	111	8,989	2,581	511	559	58	133	17	−53	−845	−1,288	443
1975 1st qtr.	110	8,989	2,533	471	492	−126	18	−31	−38	−544	−947	403
2nd qtr.	108	8,851	2,460	444	498	−269	−105	−54	−66	−295	−655	360
3rd qtr.	107	8,776	2,528	416	501	−214	−234	−29	38	−566	−967	401
4th qtr.	108	8,758	2,446	406	480	−90	−70	4	43	−230	−626	396
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,876	2,427	402	453	38	31	23	12	−80	−538	458
2nd qtr.	108	8,812	2,343	409	480	−118	−115	−22	−55	−439	−919	480
3rd qtr.	108	8,928	2,444	418	485	−27	4	10	22	−536	−1,148	612
4th qtr.		8,990 pe		425 p	475 p		38 p	34 p	22 p	−368	−987	619
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	0.0	+1.3	−1.8	+3.9	+2.9							
on a year earlier	+1.3	+2.2	−4.0	+2.6	−2.1							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	107.1	116.7
1973	110.3	110.0	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2 6	307.0	122.2	133.8
1974	106.4	108.2	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.7ø	131.2	136.2
1975	101.3	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	150.0	125.6	126.4
1976	102.2	103.4	108.1	104.7			299.0 p	219.6 p		1,269.8ø	5.4ø	120.4ø	135.9	134.2
1975 4th qtr.	100.5	100.5	105.7	89	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,131.1	4.8	113.5	129.6	127.4
1976 1st qtr.	101.9	101.9	107.3	103	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,220.3	5.2	116.7	131.5	126.1
2nd qtr.	102.4	103.6	107.6	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,252.1	5.3	119.4	137.1	134.6
3rd qtr.	101.6	103.6	108.9	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,305.5	5.5	123.6	134.2	137.9
4th qtr.	102.8	104.3	108.5	113			329.9 p	233.9 p		1,316.8ø	..	..	140.8	138.1
1976 Jan.	101.1	101.6	110.2	105	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,203.5	5.1	112.6	131.6	127.7
Feb.	102.6	102.2	106.6	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,225.8	5.2	115.7	129.6	126.6
Mar.	102.0	101.9	105.4	102	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,231.6	5.2	121.8	133.4	123.9
Apr.	102.4	103.3	108.8	116	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,241.8	5.3	122.5	135.6	132.1
May	104.5	106.4	106.8	110	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,253.3	5.3	120.0	137.2	134.7
June	100.5	101.1	107.3	91	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,261.1	5.3	115.7	138.5	137.1
July	101.5	103.8	108.8	91	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	219.0	1,288.9	5.5	118.6	130.4	139.4
Aug.	100.8	102.7	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	219.1	1,308.8	5.6	126.2	134.9	133.7
Sept.	102.5	104.5	108.9	86	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	219.2	1,318.7	5.6	125.9	137.3	140.4
Oct.	102.5	104.6	108.1	109	163.5	14.7	327.7	230.0	219.5	1,307.9	5.5	124.5	140.8	140.6
Nov.	103.0	104.6	109.2	119	165.8	15.0	331.8	234.6	220.7	..	..	..	138.1	140.1
Dec.	102.9	103.7	108.3	111	168.0	15.1	330.2	237.2	221.5	1,325.7 e	5.6 e	..	143.3	133.6
1977 Jan.	103.9 p	104.4 p	107.2	93	172.4	16.6	337.8 p	244.9 p	223.5 p	1,338.2	5.7	..	140.6	153.6
Feb.			107½ p	120 p			339.6 p	248.1 p		1,331.4	5.6	150.5	135.0 p	133.8 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.4	+0.3	−0.9	+3.2	+4.9		+3.5	+5.7	+1.2	+1.3			+1½	—
a year earlier	+2.7	+3.5	—	+8.7	+15.5		+28.4	+19.0	+11.7	+11.0			+7	+10

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of available months e estimate

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Survey of short term export prospects

This note presents the results of the sixth survey of short term export prospects carried out by the Department of Trade amongst the United Kingdom's top exporting companies.

The broad picture which emerges from the present survey appears to be one of a continuing buoyancy in the volume of total exports in the first half of 1977, but the path into the third quarter is difficult to assess (see below).

In this survey, the period covered was the fourth quarter of 1976 to the third quarter of 1977. Replies have been received from 64 companies; the returns covered three-eighths of the total value of UK exports, slightly less than the final coverage of the fifth survey.

The questionnaire asked for the actual value of firms' export deliveries in the fourth quarter of 1976 and forecasts for the subsequent three quarters; the percentage change these values represented over the same quarter a year earlier; and how this change was divided between movements in prices and in volume.

The results from totalling the figures received from the 64 companies are shown in table 1. The main features are:

1 The value of exports of responding firms grew more rapidly between the fourth quarter of 1975 and the fourth quarter of 1976 than did total UK exports.
2 This larger increase reflected a less marked rise in prices more than offset by a more rapid expansion of volume.
3 The volume forecasts have been revised upwards from the low levels shown in the last survey. They suggest that the volume of the major companies' exports will, in the second and third quarters of this year, be 12 per cent higher than in the same period of 1976. This is a similar rate of growth to that shown for the fourth quarter of 1976 and the first quarter of 1977, taken together on a year earlier.
4 Although respondent companies record a faster rate of price increase in the last quarter of 1976 (compared with the last quarter of 1975) than previously forecast, they expect a slow down in this rate through the forecast period, perhaps reflecting in part their views on the effects of the stability of sterling. Their forecasts for the first half of 1977 are very similar to those made in the fifth survey.
5 Taking volume and price movements together, the increase on a year earlier in the value of their exports is expected to slow through the forecast period, in line with their forecast of a slow down in the rate of growth of their prices. In the second and third quarters of 1977 these companies expect the value of their exports to be nearly 30 per cent higher than a year earlier, a rather slower rate than they report for the end of 1976 and the first quarter of this year.

In interpreting the results of the survey for the prospects of exports as a whole, two possible sources of bias need to be borne in mind. First, there is the degree of variation in the successive forecasts made by the companies themselves and their relationship to the outturn they subsequently report (see table 2). Secondly, there is the relationship between the recorded information for the large exporters and for total exports (see table 3). This problem is of some significance in the context of the derivation of a quarterly path for exports from estimates of year on year changes. The seasonally adjusted volume of total exports fell back in the third quarter of 1976, and the still uncertain relationship in the quarter by quarter figures of the year on year growth for large exporters and total exports makes an assessment of the volume of total exports in the third quarter of 1977 particularly difficult. The results of the survey must, therefore, be regarded with caution.

A fuller discussion of sources of bias was contained in the report on the fifth survey published in *Trade and Industry*, 28 January 1977.

Inquiries: 01-215 3155.

TABLE 1 Movement in UK exports between Q4 1976 and Q3 1977 by value, volume and price

		Recorded UK exports (a)	Sixth survey results for major exporters (b)			
		1976	1976	1977		
		4th qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr
Value	£ million	7,307	2,462	2,615	2,824	2,737
	Percentage increase on a year earlier	30½ (c)	34½	29½	30	27
Volume	Percentage increase on a year earlier	6 (c)	12½	10	12	12
Price	Percentage increase on a year earlier	23 (d)	19½	18	16	13½

(a) Source: Overseas Trade Statistics.
(b) Aggregated from returns received from 64 companies.
(c) If exports of previous stones are excluded the figures become 31½ per cent and 7 per cent respectively.
(d) Average value index. See footnote to table 3.

TABLE 2 Comparison of latest survey with previous rounds

Percentage increases on a year earlier

	1976, 4th qtr				1977, 1st qtr			1977, 2nd qtr	
	S3	S4	S5	S6	S4	S5	S6	S5	S6
Value	24½	31½	28½	34½	24½	23	29½	24½	30
Volume	9½	13½	9	12½	8½	4	10	7½	12
Price	13½	16	18½	19½	15	18½	18	16	16

S3 = Third Survey, April 1976. Returns from 68 companies (final results).
S4 = Fourth Survey, July 1976. Returns from 70 companies (final results).
S5 = Fifth Survey, November 1976. Returns from 67 companies (final results).
S6 = Sixth Survey, January 1977. Returns from 64 companies.
Provisional results of the third, fourth and fifth surveys were published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 June 1976, 10 September 1976, and 28 January 1977 respectively.

TABLE 3 Companies reported increases in exports compared with actuals*

Percentage changes on a year earlier

		Value		Volume		Price†	
		EPS	Actual	EPS	Actual	EPS	Actual
1975	3rd quarter	3½	14	−9½	−7½	13½	23
	4th quarter	13	20½	− ½	− ½	13½	21
1976	1st quarter	26	25	9½	5	15	19
	2nd quarter	26	26½	8	4½	16	21
	3rd quarter	31	29	10	7	19	20½
	4th quarter	34½	31½	12½	7	19½	22½

* Recorded OTS less precious stones.
† The price index is the average value index obtained by dividing the value of exports by the volume figure. This is likely to be closer to the figures given by firms than the unit value index.

'Economic Progress Report' for March

The calculation of sterling's effective exchange rate index has been revised, and daily figures based on the new calculation are now being published. The leading article in the March issue of *Economic Progress Report* (prepared by the Treasury Information Division), explains the nature and purpose of the index, outlines the improvements which have been made in its calculation and presents for comparison series based on the old and new methods of calculation.

The effective exchange rate measures changes in the value of sterling against a 'basket' of other currencies. In the revised method of calculation, the number of currencies included in the basket has been increased from 11 to 21. The new weights for these currencies are derived from an updated version of the IMF's multilateral exchange rate model (Merm) and are based on trade flows data for 1972 instead of 1969 as previously. Some technical changes have also been made in the method of calculation, including the use of geometric instead of arithmetic averaging.

The difference between the old and new indices was not significant up to the third quarter of 1973, but has widened since then. By 21 February 1977 when the old index stood at 56.5, the new index was, 61.4 – a difference of around 8 per cent. According to the new index therefore, the old index has recently been overstating the effective depreciation of sterling since 1971.

Help for industry's investment

Selective help for industry has an important part to play within the government's industrial strategy. Extra resources for selective assistance were promised by the chancellor in July 1976, and the December package of economic measures included a new £100 million scheme to encourage investment. An article in *Economic*

Trends described the various schemes for selective assistance which have been put into effect over the last year or two. They include, apart from the new £100 million scheme, the accelerated projects scheme, and the schemes introduced under section 8 of the Industry Act to help bring about specific improvements in industrial structure, process of production, marketing and so on in particular sectors of industry, such as machine tools or ferrous foundries.

Industrial strategy

A short article describes recent developments in the work on industrial strategy – the reports of the sector working parties considered at the National Economic Development Council meeting held on 2 February and the government response.

Monthly economic assessment

The Treasury's latest monthly economic assessment shows that output has been rising in recent months and the rise in unemployment has moderated to an average of under 4,000 a month over the last six months. The continuing increase in retail prices reflects last year's rise in world commodity prices and fall in sterling; import prices reflect the more recent stabilisation of sterling. Latest indicators confirm the recovery of confidence in financial markets with large sales of government stock, a fall in money supply and interest rates, and a firm foreign exchange market.

Correction. In the last sentence of the assessment the figure for the first drawing on the new IMF stand-by facility should be $1,160 million.

Economic indicators

A table containing the most recent figures of some of the main economic indicators is included. It is hoped to resume publication of the economic indicator charts in the April issue.

Retailers' stocks in January

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of table 1, the level of stocks at book value in January was 14 per cent higher than a year earlier; at constant prices it fell by 1 per cent.

The estimate of the value of the physical increase in retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted suggests a further fall in January, the third consecutive monthly fall following a period when stocks were increasing. The volume of retail sales fell back in January from the level of the second half of 1976.

Notes

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,886 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, 1974, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book value series have not been given. From April, 1974, the basis of valuation is comparable with that of a year earlier and the percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

4 The statistics given in table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

5 Long-run series back to 1966 for both table 1 and table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 17 September 1976.

Inquiries: 01-215 3220.

TABLE 1 Level of retailers' stocks

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* — At cost at end of month

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	99	101	102	102	105	102	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	107	112	112	112	117	116	118	123	134	143	132
1974	128	129	135	139	144	145	144	143	149	161	171	154
1975	148	151	158	154	159	161	160	160	170	187	201	181
1976	172	174	184	185	184	184	180	181	193	215	230	207
1977	195											
1972	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	8	7	7	8	6
1973	8	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	21	21	20	19	17
1975	15	17	17	11	11	11	11	12	15	16	18	18
1976	16	15	17	20	16	14	13	13	14	15	14	14
1977	14											
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	94	96	98	98	97	99	96	96	98	106	111	100
1972	95	97	100	100	100	102	99	99	101	108	114	101
1973	98	101	105	110	114	117	115	115	119	127	135	123
1974	118	117	120	121	122	121	119	117	119	126	132	117
1975	110	109	113	108	109	110	107	106	112	122	129	115
1976	108	109	114	113	112	112	108	108	113	124	130	115
1977	107											
1972	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	4	2	2	3	1
1973	3	4	5	10	13	15	16	16	18	18	19	22
1974	21	16	14	9	8	3	3	1	−1	−1	−2	−5
1975	−7	−6	−6	−11	−11	−10	−10	−9	−6	−4	−2	−1
1976	−1	−1	1	5	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	—
1977	−1											

TABLE 2 Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted — £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−11	3	−8	2	−12	17	−7	16	5	24	−14	7
1972	−7	9	−1	13	6	21	−16	25	−22	9	−6	−16
1973	34	25	23	106	57	42	15	21	12	3	11	33
1974	12	−50	—	33	25	−39	10	−24	−25	−4	−19	−30
1975	−19	−30	11	−76	20	−10	5	−6	39	41	15	−13
1976	−24	−10	46	−5	−25	−25	−14	5	31	52	−2	−28
1977	−48											

See note 2.

Retail sales – provisional estimate for February

Volume

The *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in February is 107½ (1971 = 100), close to the January level. The volume of trade has been a little lower in recent months and, in the three months December to February was 1 per cent lower than in the previous three months.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the *provisional* estimate of the value of total retail sales in February was 16 per cent higher than in February 1976. In January and February, the average value of sales was 14 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1976.

	Retail sales: volume seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)		Retail sales: value not seasonally adjusted – percentage change compared with a year earlier
1975	1st quarter	111.1	+22
	2nd quarter	109.2	+24
	3rd quarter	105.4	+18
	4th quarter	105.7	+15
1976	1st quarter	107.3	+15
	2nd quarter	107.6	+12
	3rd quarter	108.9	+15
	4th quarter	108.5	+16
1975	November	104.9	+16
	December	106.6	+15
1976	January	110.2	+16
	February	106.6	+14
1976	November	109.2	+17
	December	108.3	+16
1977	January	107.2	+13
	February	107½ (prov)	+16 (prov)

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest half per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

A detailed note on the method computation of the provisional estimate was published in *Trade and Industry*, 21 February 1974.

Estimates are based on early returns to the monthly inquiry. These returns now cover approaching one half, by turnover, of information available at the final stage. Past evidence suggests that the average error (ignoring sign) in the provisional estimates will be about 0.5 per cent. However, as with all estimates based on partial data, caution must be exercised in interpreting a single month's figure.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for February will be published in a press notice on Monday, 4 April 1977.

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Provisional estimates of vehicle production and new car registrations in February

Tables 1 and 2 show United Kingdom vehicle production in the four weeks ending 26 February 1977, as estimated from provisional returns supplied by the major manufacturers.

February car production at 97,000 units (24,300 per week) was 19 per cent below the number produced in February 1976. Commercial vehicle output of 32,600 units (8,200 per week) was 8 per cent above the level in February 1976.

Seasonally adjusted, February car output of 101,000 units was 9 per cent below the 1976 monthly average. Commercial vehicle output of 34,200 units was 10 per cent above the monthly average for 1976. Comparing the three months December to February with the preceding three-month period, car production was virtually unchanged while commercial vehicle production rose by 4 per cent.

Table 3 shows provisional estimates of new car registrations in Great Britain. Seasonally adjusted, new car registrations in February are provisionally estimated at 120,000. In the three months December to February, the average monthly level of registrations was 108,000, a rise of 3 per cent from the preceding three months.

Inquiries: 01-212 0788.

TABLE 1 UK: estimated production in February

Thousands

	Cars		Commercial vehicles	
	Month	Weekly average	Month	Weekly average
Estimated output:				
1977 (4 weeks ended 26.2.77)	97.0	24.3	32.6	8.2
1976 (4 weeks ended 21.2.76)	119.8	29.9	30.3	7.6
Percentage change		−19		+8

TABLE 2 UK: vehicle production: monthly averages (seasonally adjusted)

Thousands

	1975	1976					1977		Average of		
	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Dec	Jan	Feb	Sep/Nov 1976	Dec 1976/ Feb 1977	% change
Cars	99	116	114	106	107	99	128	101	110	109	N/C
Commercial vehicles	29.6	31.6	31.4	30.4	30.6	27.4	37.5	34.2	31.8	33.0	+4

TABLE 3 GB: new car registrations: monthly averages

Thousands

	1975	1976					1977		Average of		
	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Dec	Jan	Feb	Sep/Nov 1976	Dec 1976/ Feb 1977	% change
Recorded	69	115	110	107	87	61	112	125			
Seasonally adjusted	89	103	108	97	113	111	93	120	105	108	+3

Wholesale price indices in February

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products increased by 1¼ per cent in February to 248.1 (1970 = 100).

The index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco rose by 1½ per cent. Higher prices for vehicles made the most significant contribution. The index has increased by 5¼ per cent in the latest three months compared with an increase of 4¾ per cent in the same period last year.

Price increases for motor cars and commercial and public service vehicles were mainly responsible for the 4¼ per cent increase in the vehicles industry index. These increases also accounted for nearly half of the 2 per cent rise in the index for the engineering and allied industries sector.

Further price rises for domestic furniture, bedding and building joinery were largely responsible for the timber industry's index increasing by 2 per cent. This index has increased by 7½ per cent in the latest three months.

In the bricks, cement etc industries over half of the 2¾ per cent increase was due to increased prices for ready-mixed cement and precast concrete products. Higher prices for aluminium made the most significant contribution to the 1 per cent increase in the metal manufacturing index.

Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division 4, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-215 3544 (Tables 1 and 2 indices), 3549 (engineering), 5216 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 3173 (imported commodities).

TABLE 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975	1976										1977	
		4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Feb	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	256.1	266.5	292.6	306.8	329.9	263.9	302.0	304.0	314.4	327.7	331.8	330.2	337.8	339.6
	Materials†	261.4	272.5	299.2	314.6	339.7	269.9	309.3	311.5	323.0	337.6	341.8	339.8	348.0	349.7
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	205.5	210.1	230.6	232.0	236.3	207.5	232.0	232.0	232.0	233.3	236.6	238.9	241.0	242.7
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	269.7	280.3	313.5	328.3	348.4	276.8	324.6	325.9	334.3	348.3	350.5	346.3	353.6	355.1
	Materials†	278.9	290.3	325.3	342.0	364.3	286.7	337.9	339.3	348.9	364.6	366.7	361.5	369.6	371.1
Order III	Materials and fuel purchased by the food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	224.8	235.4	246.8	257.3	283.1	234.4	251.4	255.0	265.6	274.4	285.2	289.6	297.2	299.2
	Materials and fuels purchased by selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	227.0	237.0	246.5	258.2	288.7	236.1	251.7	253.9	268.9	281.4	290.3	294.4	302.5	305.4
	Materials†	227.3	237.3	246.5	258.3	289.5	236.5	251.7	253.8	269.5	282.3	291.0	295.1	303.4	306.3
	Fuel	217.8	230.9	248.0	254.0	268.0	229.3	251.7	255.1	255.1	256.7	271.8	275.4	281.3	282.2
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	225.6	235.8	243.3	254.3	284.9	235.2	247.5	250.2	265.1	277.3	286.8	290.6	299.4	302.6
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	250.8	258.7	276.5	289.4	310.3	257.1	286.0	288.2	295.1	306.4	312.5	312.0	317.0	318.5
311 and 312	Steel industries	237.3	247.0	281.6	291.3	299.5	243.9	287.3	292.4	294.3	297.5	301.0	300.0 p	302.0	303.9
321 to 323	Non-ferrous metals industry	149.1	157.3	189.3	202.0	205.4	154.7	203.3	200.2	202.6	203.6	207.5	205.1	215.6	222.3
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	217.2	226.6	245.1	260.6	275.9	226.3	257.7	260.9	263.2	271.9	275.5	277.3	281.8	284.0
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	187.0	196.4	218.5	231.4	238.1	195.3	230.2	231.4	232.7	236.2	238.8	239.4	245.2	249.0
Order X	Shipbuilding and marine engineering industries	213.8	222.3	238.5	253.0	266.2	222.5	249.8	253.7	255.6	263.3	266.7	268.6	273.6	276.1
Order XII	Metal goods industries	227.3	234.4	258.3	272.3	291.4	233.6	269.3	272.0	275.5	287.7	293.3	293.3	296.2	298.6
Order XIII	Textile industries	214.9	232.4	255.9	275.1	298.8	231.0	270.3	273.5	281.4	296.9	301.2	298.2	298.7	299.7
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	189.4	197.4	209.1	219.1	231.0	197.7	216.4	218.1	222.9	228.1	232.0	232.8	239.4	241.3
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc., industries	231.7	245.1	259.0	271.1	282.4	244.4	267.7	271.8	273.9	276.6	283.5	287.2	294.3	298.0
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	226.3	237.8	248.5	259.6	274.6	237.7	256.0	259.8	262.9	267.1	276.4	280.2	285.9	287.5
Order XVII	Timber industries	220.2	235.2	259.7	285.9	307.0	235.1	279.0	287.3	291.3	300.5	308.4	312.2	317.6	319.4
481 to 484	Paper industries	248.9	253.5	273.7	286.4	304.7	251 4	281.8	284.2	292.1	302.6	306.5	304.9	309.2	310.7
Order XX	Construction materials	215.4	227.2	242.5	258.2	271.5	227.8	253.9	259.3	261.4	267.8	272.1	274.5	279.0	284.2
Part of Order XX	House building materials	217.2	229.2	244.7	261.6	276.3	229.7	256.9	262.7	265.2	272.6	277.0	279.2	283.2	289.0

† Includes crude oil and coal for carbonising.

The recent moderation in the rate of increase of manufactured food prices, which was interrupted by the sharp increase in January, was resumed last month. The rise of 1¼ per cent in the index was mainly due to the residual effect of January's price increases for chocolate confectionery and higher prices for animal and poultry foods. The index rose by 5¾ per cent in the latest three months following an increase of 8½ per cent in the previous three months period.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a twelve-month period, at 19¾ per cent in February, was marginally higher than in January.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by ½ per cent to 339.6.

The index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries was ½ per cent higher. There was little change in the exchange rate of sterling in February, and few individual commodities showed price changes having a significant effect on the index. Lower prices for imported steel and some other imported materials partly offset higher prices

(*Text continued on page* 726)

TABLE 1(a) Price index numbers of materials and fuel purchased by selected sectors of industry

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975	1976											1977	
		4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Feb	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
361	Electrical machinery industry	201.5	211.5	230.9	245.2	256.2	210.8	242.8	245.6	247.3	253.9	256.7	258.0	261.8	263.6
362	Insulated wires and cables industry	143.4	152.1	179.3	191.4	187.0	150.0	193.4	191.5	189.4	187.3	187.6	186.0	193.6	197.4
364	Radio and electronic components industry	201.8	209.7	224.6	237.1	248.4	209.8	233.9	237.3	240.2	245.2	249.2	250.7	255.9	258.8
368	Domestic appliances industry	195.8	205.3	222.3	234.4	246.3	205.1	231.7	234.4	237.1	243.4	246.9	248.5	252.5	254.1
369	Electrical goods industries n.e.s.	192.6	200.7	219.6	231.6	240.9	200.3	229.5	231.3	233.9	238.7	241.3	242.6	249.1	253.8
381	Motor vehicle industry	219.1	229.6	247.4	261.4	276.3	229.2	257.7	261.8	265.6	273.3	277.0	278.5	282.5	284.2
411	Man-made fibres industry	221.7	231.1	248.1	259.0	275.8	231.0	254.3	258.1	264.5	273.7	277.1	276.5	277.0	278.2
414	Woollen and worsted industry	230.8	255.2	282.9	302.2	338.4	251.2	293.1	299.7	313.8	337.9	340.6	336.7	340.0	336.0
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs industry	198.6	210.1	224.2	243.3	257.5	210.1	238.6	242.3	248.9	254.3	258.1	260.0	265.3	266.8
450	Footwear industry	189.1	198.3	214.7	222.9	231.6	199.4	220.1	222.0	226.6	229.7	232.2	232.8	238.3	242.1
481	Paper and board making industry	258.2	262.8	288.5	299.3	318.4	260.2	295.5	297.7	304.7	317.1	320.2	317.8	314.9	318.0

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975	1976												
		4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Feb	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
Order III to XIX	Output of manufactured products	199.1	206.9	214.4	223.2	233.9	207.3	219.8	223.4	226.3	230.0	234.6	237.2	244.9	248.1
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	205.4	214.5	222.0	230.8	241.2	215.0	227.5	231.4	233.6	237.0	242.0	244.5	250.9	254.7
	Output of selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	208.0	215.2	222.2	233.8	252.2	215.3	227.9	232.8	240.7	248.4	252.5	255.8	263.9	267.0
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	208.2	215.5	220.5	230.2	247.3	215.6	224.4	228.9	237.2	244.1	247.5	250.4	259.3	262.2
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	198.2	206.5	213.7	221.0	228.8	207.3	218.4	221.3	223.4	226.1	228.8	231.5	238.0	240.0
Order VI	Metal manufacturing	209.5	217.7	240.6	259.1	271.8	217.8	256.8	259.6	261.3	269.9	272.4	273.2	279.1	282.1
311 and 312	Steel industries	231.0	237.3	260.3	281.8	300.2	238.2	278.4	283.3	283.8	298.1	301.2	301.4	306.6	307.8
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	201.8	209.9	217.7	226.6	236.3	210.6	223.2	227.1	229.4	232.8	237.0	239.0	243.9	248.6
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	209.3	218.6	226.1	235.4	244.5	219.2	233.0	235.1	238.0	241.8	244.7	247.0	252.4	255.3
Order VIII	Instrument engineering	176.2	184.9	190.9	196.7	203.7	184.2	193.7	197.0	199.4	201.0	203.5	206.7	210.2	213.2
Order IX	Electrical engineering	183.6	191.5	199.1 r	205.8 r	214.1	192.0	203.6 r	205.5 r	208.3 r	212.6	214.4	215.4	220.0	222.6
Order XI	Vehicles	219.9	227.7	236.8	247.6	260.0	229.5	241.7	249.4	251.7	253.0	262.1	265.0	268.6	279.9
Order XII	Metal goods industries n.e.s.	207.8	215.7	227.1	238.3	253.6	215.3	235.4	238.4	241.2	249.6	255.0	256.1	262.3	265.3
Order XIII	Textile industries	185.1	193.0	201.1	209.6	219.9	193.4	207.2	209.3	212.2	217.2	220.2	222.4	232.9	234.6
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	170.7	176.6	180.3	186.4	193.7	176.0	184.3	185.8	189.0	192.2	194.2	194.8	200.4	201.4
441/449	Made-up clothing	167.1	172.6	175.9	180.2	188.5	172.1	178.3	179.3	183.0	187.1	188.8	189.6	194.3	194.9
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc., industries	218.8	231.5	243.1	254.3	265.6	232.7	250.6	255.0	257.2	261.2	265.7	270.0	273.0	280.3
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	210.2	215.4	223.2	230.2	241.5	215.9	227.6	230.5	232.6	239.7	241.8	243.0	246.9	250.7
Order XVII	Timber industries	210.9	218.7	225.5	235.7	248.5	218.9	231.2	236.5	239.3	244.0	247.8	253.6	260.9	266.3
481 to 484	Paper industries	233.8	235.4	242.4	254.6	266.0	235.3	248.8	254.1	260.9	262.2	265.7	270.1	277.8	280.0
Order XX	New construction‡	236	238	246	263 p					263 p					

‡ Index of building costs relate to average for the quarter (*Department of Environment*) r = revision.

TABLE 3(a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published monthly)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1976			1977	
		Feb	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
101	Coal	307.3	356.1	356.1	356.1	356.3
102/1	Coated limestone roadstone	293.1	329.6	343.2	351.5	358.2
	Aggregates for concrete	201.2	220.6	225.3	227.3	231.0
103	Sand and gravel – ex pit or works	208.2	254.8	254.8	258.0	278.3
240	Tobacco	156.0	173.1	175.1	190.6	190.6
261	Foundry coke	348.5	404.2	404.2	404.2	404.2
262	Motor spirit, two star (including duty)⌀	183.5	220.2	220.4	221.4	221.4
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs – including duty)⌀	346.4	433.2	443.6	462.9	462.9
	Derv fuel (including duty)⌀	167.9	208.7	211.3	217.0	217.0
263	Lubricating oils and greases	238.8	256.8	255.6	274.2	275.0
271	General chemicals	225.3	263.4	264.5	269.4	272.0
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	224.1	253.7	253.6	258.8	261.0
271/2	Organic chemicals	250.2	293.1	294.3	298.0	300.0
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals	189.0	217.8	221.7	221.9	229.6
	Pharmaceutical preparations	180.3	203.1	205.0	207.9	209.5
273	Toilet preparations	181.7	198.0	200.1	206.6	211.7
274	Paint	220.6	229.0	236.0	238.9	239.6
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	195.7	226.1	227.2	232.9	234.2
	Polyolefin moulding materials	219.9	245.4	246.0	246.0	246.0
	Polyvinyl chlorides	207.5	260.4	262.7	262.7	263.6
279/3	Explosives, fireworks, etc.	241.1	268.2	268.2	275.1	275.5
311/2	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical sheets)	202.1	299.7	299.7	299.7	296.0
	Tinplate	233.4	274.0	274.0	274.0	290.8
	Finished steel (other than sheets, tinplates, forgings and castings)	244.3	306.4	306.4	313.6	314.7
	Steel plates (non-alloy)	254.3	303.5	303.5	303.5	303.5
	Steel sheet piling	265.8	309.9	309.9	330.7	331.4
	Heavy steel bars and sections	264.3	298.5	298.5	331.3	332.4
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	238.6	333.6	333.6	333.6	333.6
	Finished stainless steels	186.4	232.0	232.0	249.1	256.1
	Steel castings	229.6	271.1	272.7	279.2	279.5
	Forgings (other than drop forgings)	292.7	377.2	377.4	381.8	382.0
312	Steel tubes – other than electric conduit tubes	261.4	311.8	312.2	312.2	312.2
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	256.6	285.3	291.3	297.3	298.3
313/4	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	282.4	308.4	308.4	310.3	312.4
321	Wrought aluminium	195.7	253.8	257.8	260.1	271.5 e
	Aluminium: Rolled	187.0	255.0	259.5	261.2	274.3 e
	Extruded and drawn aluminimum products – other than wire	194.6	265.2	269.8	271.6	285.2 e
	Aluminium: Castings	209.2	254.3	257.4	260.6	268.5
	Aluminium: Forgings	185.0	224.1	231.1	231.1	231.1
322	Brass ingots	123.6	164.0	162.0	167.2	170.3
331	Agricultural machinery	221.3	259.2	262.3	272.1	273.8
331/1	Soil preparation and cultivating machinery	221.9	260.1	261.1	264.5	266.7 e
331/3	Harvesting, threshing, feed processing machinery, etc.	227.7	268.2	272.2	285.6	286.9 e
	Pick-up balers	232.3	281.2 r	281.2	287.4	290.1 e
	Hay and silage making machinery	187.5	212.0	218.6	228.9	230.7 e
	Grinding mills and meal mixers	216.5	247.2	259.9	259.9	266.4 e
331/5	Milking machines	205.4	236.9	236.9	250.8	252.6 e
	Other agricultural machinery (spraying machinery, general purpose elevators and conveyors, etc.)	203.9	246.5	252.0	252.4	254.8 e
332	Metal-working machine tools	236.0	265.0	265.6 p	275.0	278.0 e
332/1	Metal cutting machine tools	240.5	266.5	266.7	278.6	281.9 e
332/2	Metal forming machine tools	227.0	256.0	256.7 p	268.2	271.3 e
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	218.4	237.1	238.5 p	241.4	244.8
333/1	Pumps	203.3	222.4	223.4 p	227.3	232.5
	Kerbside petrol and oil measuring pumps	191.0	208.4	208.4	219.8	221.4 e
	Industrial pumps	204.1	223.3	224.3 p	227.8	233.2 e
	Centrifugal, turbine and axial flow pumps	206.6	227.6	229.1 p	232.9	241.2 e
333/2	Industrial valves	248.1	263.8	264.7	267.7	268.9 e
	Iron valves	242.9	268.7	271.2	275.6	277.0 e
	Steel valves	272.0	270.0	270.7	274.3	276.1 e
	Non-ferrous valves	221.9	251.3	251.3	252.2	252.2 e
333/3	Air and gas compressors	219.2	243.7	245.1	245.5	249.2 e
333/4	Oil/hydraulic fluid power equipment	202.3	221.1	224.6	228.7	233.9 e
333/5	Pneumatic fluid power and control equipment	172.9	193.5	193.5	193.5	196.0 e
334	Stationary internal combustion engines and steam turbines	217.8	247.3	248.9	253.0	257.2
336	Construction and earth-moving equipment	221.2	251.9	254.4	257.9	261.3
336/1	Contractors' plant and parts	220.8	250.9	253.3	256.8	260.2 e
	Excavators, trenchers, diggers, etc.	240.1	275.5	279.3	285.6	288.5 e
	Concrete mixers	218.0	239.8	240.7	243.5	247.2 e
	Dumpers	218.6	239.3 r	242.7	243.8	248.4 e
	Crawler tractors	194.7	233.0	234.6	236.3	238.1 e
336/2	Crushing and screening plant and parts	226.3	257.0	259.7	264.3	266.7 e
337	Mechanical handling equipment	211.0	233.8	237.4 p	243.9	247.2
337/2	Cranes	205.6	234.7	234.7 p	246.3	251.2
337/4	Lifting and winding devices	216.2	241.2	241.2	251.5	260.7
337/5	Powered industrial trucks and tractors	223.0	245.5	255.1	260.7	262.4
339/1	Mining machinery	195.9	213.5	216.4	221.5	226.3 e
339 3	Commercial and industrial refrigeration machinery	205.2	247.1 p	241.1 p	251.1	251.5
338/5	Scales and weighing machinery	231.5	253.4	253.4	258.8	263.7 e
339/6	Portable power tools	195.5	221.7	222.9	229.6	230.5 e
339/7	Food and drink processing machinery	207.6	236.8	237.1	247.1	249.1
339/8	Bottle washing, bottling, packaging, labelling and canning machinery	209.5	231.6	232.6 p	242.5	245.5
339/9	Miscellaneous machinery	211.0	238.6 p	241.2 p	248.7	252.8 e
352	Clocks, watches and time recorders	203.8	219.3 p	220.5 p	233.1	239.1

TABLE 3(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976			1977	
		Feb	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
354	Scientific and industrial instruments and systems	184.6	203.2	207.4	211.0	214.2 e
354/1	Microscopes	179.0	193.9	193.9	195.2	198.0 e
354/2	Process measuring and control instruments	192.2	212.8	218.4	221.4	222.2 e
	Analytical instruments	175.6	188.2	188.1 p	197.0	197.7 e
	Spectrophotometers and absorptiometers	149.7	157.5	157.5 p	163.7	165.2 e
	Electrical testing, measuring and control instruments	180.7	192.7	199.2	201.6	204.1 e
365	Broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	144.6	155.6	155.8	158.2	159.4 e
365/1	Gramophone records and pre-recorded tapes	177.0	196.9	197.0	197.0	197.0 e
	Gramophone records	182.6	203.3	203.5	203.5	203.5 e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cassettes	180.2	199.7	199.7	199.7	199.7 e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cartridges	153.4	170.1	170.1	170.1	170.1 e
365/2	Other broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	141.0	151.1	151.3	154.0	155.2 e
	Domestic television receivers – colour†	128.4	139.4	139.9 p	140.7	141.5 e
	Domestic television receivers – monochrome†	145.9	157.4	157.4	160.7	162.1 e
	Domestic television receivers†	142.0	153.4	153.5	156.2	157.5 e
	Record players and tape recorders	139.4	148.4	148.4	149.0	149.8 e
368	Domestic electrical appliances	174.0	195.0	195.6	199.4	200.2
368/1	Domestic electrical cooking appliances	180.6	204.0 r	204.0	205.2	206.1 e
	Electric cookers	178.1	203.3 r	203.3	203.3	204.3 e
368/3	Domestic electrical heating appliances	186.3	210.5	212.2	215.4	215.6 e
	Electric fires	179.3	211.0	212.0	218.0	218.8 e
	Water heaters, wash boilers, etc.	226.8	263.2	263.2	264.2	264.2 e
368/4	Electric vacuum cleaners and polishers	178.6	206.4	206.4	209.2	211.7 e
	Domestic electric flat irons	208.2	225.1	225.1	231.2	231.7 e
368/6	Domestic refrigerators, gas and electric	167.8	181.9	184.1	192.0	193.5 e
	Domestic electric refrigerators	171.3	188.0	191.0	199.6	199.6 e
369/2 and 369/3	Batteries and accumulators	200.0	248.2	248.2	248.2	257.2 e
369/4	Electric lamps and fluorescent tubes	188.3	201.8	201.8	201.8	204.2 e
369/5	Installation materials, domestic	192.1	228.9	228.9	230.6	235.2 e
380	Wheeled tractors	272.6	314.7 r	319.7	333.0	340.7
381/1	Passenger cars	222.8	254.5	258.0	259.5	272.1 e
381/1	Passenger cars‡	203.1	232.1	235.2	236.6	248.1 e
381/2	Commercial and public service vehicles	242.1	278.5	280.9	283.6	297.1 e
	Commercial vehicles not exceeding 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	244.5	280.3	282.7	284.7	300.1 e
	Commercial vehicles and chassis over 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	241.9	276.9	280.4	285.0	296.9 e
381/3	Public service vehicles	243.4	272.2	272.3	278.1	286.6 e
390	Engineers' cutting tools	184.8	215.9	218.2	223.0	227.4
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	159.5	172.1	172.7	184.4	190.1
	Engineers' cutting tools and parts: non-diamond	187.5	218.3	220.8	225.2	229.9
	Hacksaw blades	172.0	230.8	231.7	234.4	234.4
391	Hand tools and implements	221.4	264.8	266.8	273.4	277.2
392	Cutlery and tableware, etc	206.3	236.5	239.0	245.1	248.1
399/1	Metal furniture, office and works equipment	197.1	223.0	225.3	229.4	233.3
	Metal non-domestic furniture	204.9	232.9	236.1	240.1	242.2 e
	Metal chairs	185.2	196.3	198.6	200.7	203.3 e
	Metal cabinets	201.2	217.8	221.5	231.1	231.4 e
399/2	Metal windows and curtain walling	311.6	369.6	371.5	396.6	399.1
399/9	Domestic gas appliances	174.0	191.2	192.8	208.5	209.4
	Gas cookers	174.5	191.5	191.5	209.8	211.1
	Gas water heaters and wash boilers	188.0	206.2	211.9	229.0	229.7 e
	Gas fires and space heaters	167.1	184.5	187.6	197.6 e	197.6 e
399/12	Catering equipment	199.9	220.5	227.5	232.4	235.4
	Plumbers' brassware	179.7	202.0	203.3	210.1	211.6
	Domestic oil burning appliances	211.2	235.8	240.1	259.8	259.8
411	Man-made fibres production	166.7	185.8	186.7	190.7	192.0
412, 414/5, and 415	All spun man-made fibres yarns	182.2	209.5	213.8	214.8	216.2
412	Cotton yarns, cotton spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	210.5	279.5	281.3	275.0	276.4
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	204.9	251.3	256.3	259.5	261.1
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	207.0	220.3	221.3	230.1	231.3
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	209.9	268.3	268.4	282.2	282.9
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	162.6	176.9	177.5	191.7	193.4
419	Carpets and rugs	201.1	222.1	228.5	237.4	240.2
	Carpets	200.8	221.6	228.2	237.4	240.0
	Carpets – woven	218.5	244.5	253.6	262.8	264.8
	Tufted carpets	165.8	176.3	178.0	187.0	191.0 e
429/1	Asbestos manufactures	193.0	219.0	219.0	232.5	234.1
431/1	Leather for footwear	183.1	210.8	210.8	211.0	219.6
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	185.4	208.3	208.6	216.7	218.9
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	240.5	268.3	289.5	291.9	293.9
461/2	Non-refractory goods including building bricks	233.7	269.3	272.5	274.8	279.9
	Engineering bricks – delivered	280.2	293.7	303.4	310.6	314.5
463/1	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	218.7	231.7	234.7	241.4	247.8
	Glazing sheet and plate glass	197.8	210.4	210.4	226.3	232.8
463/2	Glass containers	219.7	254.7	254.7	256.0	256.8
464	Cement – delivered in bulk	243.4	268.4	269.8	269.8	279.8
469/2	Precast concrete products	223.9	255.2	256.0	261.4	269.1
	Precast concrete pipes – delivered	258.7	299.6	299.6	307.9	320.8
	Precast concrete manholes – delivered	207.6	234.5	234.5	240.1	250.0

Table 3(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976			1977	
		Feb	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
	Plaster gypsum	212.0	228.1	241.3	243.9	243.9
471/1	Homegrown hardwood – sawn	230.5	258.7	264.8	271.7	275.4
471/2	Building joinery	240.8	290.3	298.1	309.5	314.0
472	Furniture and upholstery	204.8	223.2	225.5	231.9	236.0
	Domestic furniture	201.4	219.9	222.1	227.0	231.8 e
	Bedroom furniture	186.0	200.8	203.3	207.3	210.1 e
	Bookcases, bookshelves, bureaux, occasional furniture	202.9	218.0	222.7	229.7	241.7 e
	Dining room furniture	206.6	224.9	225.3	234.0	244.2
	Kitchen furniture	223.6	253.4	257.0	262.8	265.4 e
	Upholstered furniture	192.0	205.8	206.9	210.5	215.0 e
473	Bedding, etc.	223.0	241.4	244.3	250.6	270.0
	Upholstered spring interior mattresses	229.0	246.0	246.0	252.1	271.5 e
	Divan sets	246.3	259.7	264.3	273.4	296.1 e
481	Paper and board	226.4	264.1	273.5	284.7	285.1
	Printings and writings – excluding newsprint	217.0	260.7	280.0	285.8	286.3
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and packing cases – fibreboard	237.2	268.2	268.8	272.6	272.7
483	Manufactured stationery	236.3	261.5	264.9	283.3	285.4
484/1	Wallpaper	225.1	230.1	230.1	239.1	239.1
489	General printing, bookbinding, etc.	200.9	218.8	220.1	222.8	224.0
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	190.5	223.3	224.1	224.3	230.3
492	Linoleum and felt base	202.2	216.7	217.0	221.1	228.0 e
Part 399 and 472	Office furniture	225.1	247.2	250.9	262.2	263.5
Part 338/399/472	Office equipment and machinery	184.2	200.8	203.7	209.5	211.7

ø Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons (motor spirit 1,000 gallons) exclusive of rebates.
p provisional.
e estimates which are subject to possible major revisions.
† Excluding sales to rental companies.
‡ Inclusive of purchase tax (before its abolition), VAT and car tax.
r revised.

Revisions to Table 3(a)

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
331	Agricultural Machinery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	245.2	250.8	256.2	—	—	1976
331/1	Soil preparation and cultivating machinery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	246.7	248.0	255.5	—	—	1976
331/3	Harvesting, threshing, feed processing etc. machinery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	253.0	261.6	265.7	—	—	1976
	Pick-up balers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	239.8	274.8	281.2	—	—	1976
336/1	Dumpers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	237.6	237.6	237.6	—	—	1976
337/5	Powered industrial trucks and tractors	218.9	221.2	224.3	225.6	226.8	230.3	234.2	239.2	241.1	242.5	211.8	215.7	1975 — 1976
368/1	Domestic electrical cooking appliances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	199.4	—	—	1976
368/3	Electric fires	—	—	—	—	—	191.6	191.6	195.1	199.6	199.6	—	—	1976
380	Wheeled tractors	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	299.6	305.1	306.5	—	—	1976

(*Text continued from page 723*)

for many metals. In the six months since August, when the exchange rate was last relatively stable, the index has rise by 9¼ per cent.

More than half of the 3 per cent increase in the index for the non-ferrous metals industry was accounted for by further increases in the cost of lead and tin. Lead was also responsible, together with copper and aluminium, for half of the 1½ per cent increase in the electrical engineering index. Increases in the prices of materials, especially tinplate, purchased by the metal goods industry were partially offset by lower prices for steel sheets in particular and some other steel products, resulting in an overall increase of ¾ per cent.

The increased price of sand and gravel together with the higher cost of ready-mixed cement made the largest contributions to increases of 2 and 1¾ per cent in the price of materials used in housebuilding and construction respectively. Sand and gravel also caused half of the 1¼ per cent increase in the index for the bricks, cement etc industries.

Lower prices for imported paper and paperboard partly offset the higher prices for home-produced waste paper and limited the rise in the paper industry's index to ½ per cent. The index for the textile industry increased by ¼ per cent. A reduction in the price of imported raw wool almost offset higher prices for imported raw cotton.

Higher prices for imported materials were responsible for the increase of 1 per cent in the index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industry. A steep increase in the price of coffee was accompanied by higher prices for tea, cocoa beans and cocoa butter. Lower prices for home-grown potatoes and home-landed fish partly offset the price rises for imported materials.

The indices for all other sectors of industry rose by between ½ and 1 per cent.

Notes on wholesale price indices

1 Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry* of 9 April 1976.

2 The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

3 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by sectors of industry.

4 Firm and provisional indices, at all levels of aggregation, include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Additional provisional figures will be published for those indices where there are insufficient returns to allow accurate imputation.

5 Revisions to firm index numbers will only be made if they are significant. These revisions will be notified when the series are next published.

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1976			1977	
	Feb	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
Hides and skins	225.8	324.2	344.3	372.5	376.6
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	164.1	226.3	226.3	241.5	246.2
Copper‡	101.9	133.1	128.4	138.4	141.2
Lead‡	135.7	220.9	223.7	255.6	298.1
Nickel§	202.0	276.5	270.4	264.5	260.0
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%‡	209.2	323.4	323.7	361.7	390.8
Zinc‡	276.2	297.8	309.4	325.9	333.4
Zinc§	307.0	379.1	370.9	362.9	363.4
Natural rubber	211.0	327.4	278.2	281.6	282.9
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	297.1	288.1	288.1	297.2	297.2
Textiles:					
Raw cotton, all types	261.2	439.8	417.7	385.3	403.5
American types, cif Liverpool	270.2	439.5	415.2	381.8	406.8
Egyptian types, cif Liverpool	216.3	441.2	430.1	402.5	387.1

	1976			1977	
	Feb	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
Raw wool – all types	246.9	369.6	357.3	364.5	358.3
Imported	245.6	366.9	352.1	358.9	351.0
Imported, merino	230.4	326.2	315.2	323.7	319.0
Imported, fine crossbred	248.3	374.5	350.8	360.9	354.0
Imported, medium and coarse crossbred	297.7	477.9	461.2	462.5	446.7
British types	254.2	384.3	386.9	396.2	399.4
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	254.4	325.1	329.5	336.2	337.4 e
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	234.0	315.2	320.7	324.9	325.7
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	253.8	372.0	376.3	380.8	382.6 e
Woodpulp, imported	295.1	368.1	361.9	352.2	352.8

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price. p provisional. e estimates which are subject to possible major revision.

TABLE 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices(1)

1970 = 100

	Primary commodities									Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals (2)		
	Total			Agricultural non-food			Non-ferrous metals					
	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies
1974 1st quarter	303	318	274	232	244	209	160	168	144	284	298	256
2nd quarter	304	304	263	229	229	198	183	183	159	288	287	249
3rd quarter	309	315	274	221	225	196	142	145	126	287	292	254
4th quarter	320	330	284	212	213	186	126	130	111	294	303	258
1975 1st quarter	312	313	261	201	202	168	124	124	101	287	287	240
2nd quarter	299	309	250	198	204	166	121	125	101	275	284	230
3rd quarter	295	333	261	196	220	173	118	133	105	271	306	240
4th quarter	301	354	271	191	224	172	116	136	104	276	324	249
1976 1st quarter	306	368	279	202	243	184	120	144	109	231	338	256
2nd quarter	309	411	288	211	281	197	135	179	126	236	380	266
3rd quarter (3)	313	425	291	225	306	209	141	192	131	290	394	269
4th quarter (4)	*318*	*462*	*292*	*236*	*343*	*217*	*133*	*193*	*122*	*293*	*426*	*269*
1977 January (4)	*340*	*477*	*311*	*244*	*342*	*223*	*146*	*204*	*133*	*314*	*440*	*287*
February (4)	*344*	*483*	*314*	*246*	*346*	*225*	*150*	*210*	*137*	*318*	*447*	*291*

(1) Published by the UN in terms of US dollars. For convenience the index numbers are also shown in sterling and in terms of purchasers' currencies by converting the dollar index at prevailing exchange rates. (2) This combined index is not published as such by the UN. (3) Provisional. (4) Projections by Department of Industry.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 11 March 1977.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Emily	BR/E 39040/13/3/82	86	7 March	Brent Walker Film Distributors Ltd	Emily Productions Ltd, London
Review No. 7 (30th Year)	BR/E 39041/13/3/82	9	7 March	Data Film Distributors Ltd	The National Coal Board, London
Hardcore	BR/E 39045/13/3/82	82	7 March	Target International Pictures Ltd	Norfolk International Pictures Ltd, London
The Eagle Has Landed	BR/E 39049/13/3/82	136	11 March	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Kelso Film Productions Ltd, London
Movietone News 2492	BR/E 38853/13/3/82	8	11 March	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			COMMUNITY		
Erotic Young Lovers	EC 39042/13/3/82	74	7 March	Childs Associates (Films) Ltd	Rapid Film GmbH, Munich
			FOREIGN		
C.A.S.H.	F 39039	92	7 March	Scotia-Barber Distributors Ltd	Brut Productions Inc, New York
The Great Scout And Cathouse Thursday	F 39043	92	9 March	Brent Walker Film Distributors Ltd	American International Pictures, California
Sex In Sweden	F 39044	82	9 March	Variety Film Distributors Ltd	Swedish Film Productions International AB, Stockholm
Flood	F 39046	97	10 March	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd	Warner Brothers Inc, California
Mayday 40,000 Ft	F 39047	97	10 March	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd	Warner Brothers Inc, California
A Star Is Born	F 39048	140	10 March	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd	Barwood Films Ltd, New York
Jackson County Jail	F 39050	83	11 March	United Artists Corporation Ltd	New World Export Corporation, California

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for February

In February 1977 the current account is estimated to have been in surplus by £31 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £189 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £220 million.

In the three months December 1976 to February 1977 there was a current account deficit of £288 million compared with £518 million in the previous three months.

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance (c)	Visible balance: Trade in goods (c)	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1975	−1,635	−3,195	+1,560
1976	−1,423	−3,592	+2,169
1975 1st quarter	−544	−947	+403
2nd quarter	−295	−655	+360
3rd quarter	−566	−967	+401
4th quarter	−230	−626	+396
1976 1st quarter	−80	−538	+458
2nd quarter	−439	−919	+480
3rd quarter	−536	−1,148	+612
4th quarter	−368	−987	+619
1976 September	−157	−361	+204 b
October	−112	−318	+206 b
November	−249	−455	+206 b
December	−7	−214	+207 b
1977 January	−312	−532	+220 a
February	+31	−189	+220 a
1976 Sep-Nov	−518	−1,134	+616
Dec-Feb 1977	−288	−935	+647

a These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.

b One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

c These figures have been revised. See note 10.

Visible trade

Summary (figures on a balance of payments basis) (see tables 1 and 3)

In February, there was a comparatively low deficit on visible trade of £189 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £2,432 million and the value of imports £2,621 million. The deficit was £343 million lower than the erratically large January figure and resulted from a fall of £383 million in imports and a decline of £40 million in exports. The substantial fall in imports in February followed a broadly similar increase in January. These sharp fluctuations resulted in part from difficulties in the seasonal adjustment procedures to allow fully for the effects of the 1976/77 Christmas/New Year holiday period. Imports of crude oil in February fell by £104 million probably reflecting the end of the speculative stockbuilding in advance of the Opec price rise.

In terms of volume, exports fell by 2 per cent in February, while imports, which had increased sharply in January, fell back to around the low December level. The export unit value index rose only marginally in February following recent monthly increases of about 2 per cent, while import prices rose by 1 per cent, continuing the smaller changes evident in recent months. In both cases, the small increases probably reflect the greater stability of the exchange rate in recent months. The terms of trade index fell by ½ per cent.

In the three months ended February, the visible trade deficit was £935 million compared with £1,134 million in the previous three months. An improved balance of trade in oil accounted for over two-thirds of the overall improvement, reduced imports and increased exports contributing roughly equally. Total exports were valued at £7,352 million, a rise of 7½ per cent compared with the previous three months, while imports, at £8,287 million rose by 4 per cent. In volume terms exports increased by 1½ per cent and imports were little changed. The terms of trade index increased by 1 per cent, the result of a 5½ per cent rise in the export unit value index and a 4½ per cent rise in the import unit value index.

Exports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Area analysis (see table 4). The value of exports to the developed countries in aggregate was 7½ per cent higher than in the three months ended February than in the previous three months. Over this period shipments to the EEC and the rest of Western Europe rose by 6½ per cent and 13 per cent respectively, while the value of goods despatched to North America was 2½ per cent higher. Exports to the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan) increased by 8 per cent. Exports to the developing countries as a whole also rose by 8 per cent, with the value of shipments to the oil exporting countries 12 per cent higher. The value of goods despatched to the centrally planned economies rose by 4 per cent.

Commodity analysis (see tables 5, 6 and 7). In the three months ended February the value of exports of manufactured goods was 7 per cent higher than in the previous three months, with a rise of 1 per cent in volume. Within this broad category the value of exports of machinery and transport equipment rose by 4 per cent in this period, but volume fell by 3 per cent reflecting a virtually unchanged volume of machinery shipments and a 9½ per cent fall in the volume of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment exported. In terms of value, road motor vehicle exports fell by 2 per cent while exports of other transport equipment were 1 per cent higher. The value of chemicals despatched rose by 6 per cent in the latest three months, entirely reflecting higher export prices. The 5½ per cent increase in the value of metals exported reflected mainly a higher volume of deliveries, while the 11 per cent rise by value in textile exports mainly resulted from increased prices. The value of other manufactured goods despatched increased by 16 per cent. The value of exports of non-manufactures in total rose by 14 per cent. Shipments of food, beverages and tobacco and of basic materials increased in value by 11 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. Two-thirds of the 18 per cent rise in the value of fuels despatched reflected a continued sharp rise in crude oil exports.

Imports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Commodity analysis (see tables 8, 10 and 11). The stability of sterling since the end of last year has led to a marked reduction in the rate of increase of import prices for most of the major commodity groups. In the three months ended February, the value of imports of food, beverages and tobacco was unchanged compared with the previous

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Exports (fob) r	Imports (fob) r	Visible balance r
1975	19,379	22,574	−3,195
1976	25,294	28,886	−3,592
1975 1st quarter	4,644	5,591	−947
2nd quarter	4,611	5,266	−655
3rd quarter	4,808	5,775	−967
4th quarter	5,316	5,942	−626
1976 1st quarter	5,611	6,149	−538
2nd quarter	6,209	7,128	−919
3rd quarter	6,400	7,548	−1,148
4th quarter	7,074	8,061	−987
1976 September	2,220	2,581	−361
October	2,306	2,624	−318
November	2,320	2,775	−455
December	2,448	2,662	−214
1977 January	2,472	3,004	−532
February p	2,432	2,621	−189
1976 Sep-Nov	6,846	7,980	−1,134
Dec-Feb 1977 p	7,352	8,287	−935
Percentage change*	+7½	+4	

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates (see note 10).
* Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

TABLE 2 Invisibles¶

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1975	11,090	9,530	+1,560
1976	13,597	11,428	+2,169
1975 1st quarter	2,658	2,255	+403
2nd quarter	2,733	2,373	+360
3rd quarter	2,786	2,385	+401
4th quarter	2,913	2,517	+396
1976 1st quarter	3,057	2,599	+458
2nd quarter	3,247	2,767	+480
3rd quarter	3,551	2,939	+612
4th quarter	3,742	3,123	+619
1977 January			+220*
February			+220*

§ See note 6.
¶ These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

	Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade †	Exports r	Imports r
1975	198.5	245.0	81.0	125.6	126.4
1976	240.6	299.4	80.4	135.9	134.2
1975 1st quarter	184.9	239.8	77.1	128.8	127.9
2nd quarter	193.4	240.4	80.4	122.6	122.0
3rd quarter	202.2	246.4	82.1	121.3	128.3
4th quarter	210.1	259.7	80.9	129.6	127.4
1976 1st quarter	219.0	268.3	81.6	131.5	126.1
2nf quarter	234.2	291.7	80.3	137.1	134.6
3rd quarter	247.4	307.3	80.5	135.2	137.9
4th quarter	261.7	330.0	79.3	140.8	138.1
1976 September	251.7	311.8	80.7	137.3	140.4
October	256.4	322.0	79.6	140.8	140.6
November	261.8	332.7	78.7	138.1	140.1
December	266.9	335.4	79.6	143.3	133.6
1977 January	272.7	335.1	81.4	140.6	153.6
February p	273.9	338.8	80.8	138.0	133.8
1976 Sep-Nov	256.6	322.2	79.7	138.7	140.4
Dec-Feb 1977 p	271.2	336.4	80.6	140.6	140.3
Percentage change	+5½	+4½	+1	+1½	—

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the import unit value index.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

three months, a 5 per cent increase in prices being offset by a fall in volume. Imports of fuels in contrast fell by 5 per cent in value terms with a 7½ per cent fall in volume reflecting lower crude oil imports. Industrial materials as a whole rose by 7½ per cent in value, with a 6 per cent increase in the unit value index the dominant factor. Within the group, higher prices accounted for most of the 7 per cent rise in the value of basic material imports while a volume increase was the major factor in the 10 per cent increase in the value of chemical imports; volume and price movements contributed more or less equally to the 6½ per cent rise in the value of arrivals of other semi-manufactures. Increased volume contributed somewhat more than higher prices to the 7½ per cent rise in the value of imports of finished manufactures. In contrast, within the group, the 4 per cent rise in the value of machinery imports owed slightly more to higher prices than higher volumes. The value of road motor vehicle imports rose by 3½ per cent, while arrivals of other transport equipment increased by 17 per cent; for the two categories combined a 3½ per cent increase in the unit value index contributed more than higher volumes to the overall rise. The 11 per cent rise in the value of other finished manufactures owed much to higher volumes.

Area analysis (see table 9). The value of imports from the developed countries rose by 6½ per cent in the three months ended February compared with the previous three months. Imports from the rest of Western Europe increased by 10 per cent and those from the EEC by 6 per cent. Arrivals from the other developed countries and from North America rose by 6½ per cent and 3 per cent respectively. Among the developing countries, there was a 9 per cent fall in shipments from the oil exporting countries while deliveries from the other developing countries increased by 10 per cent. Imports from the centrally planned economies rose by 17 per cent.

Invisibles (see table 2)
Estimates of invisibles are now available for the fourth quarter of 1976 when credits on services and other current transactions were £3,742 million and debits £3,123 million giving a surplus of £619 million for the quarter. The rate at which the surplus is projected to be running currently has been revised upwards to £220 million a month.

Notes

1 Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in table 13. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage. Included under this heading are adjustments to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) and to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair), where no change of ownership is involved. In addition adjustments are made from time to time to the level of exports to take account of variations in the quality of recording as revealed by the regular monitoring of the accuracy of the export figures (as described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual '*Pink Book*' *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1964-74* (table 4 and pages 64-67) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and

TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1976	25,778	9,174	4,275	3,098	1,943	3,143	3,362	727
1976 1st quarter	5,740	1,958	914	691	501	695	809	175
2nd quarter	6,310	2,246	1,053	773	472	751	807	183
3rd quarter	6,500	2,342	1,061	797	490	786	837	182
4th quarter	7,228	2,628	1,247	837	481	911	909	187
1976 December	2,493	904	431	284	159	319	320	61
1977 January r	2,534	925	483	275	189	316	294	66
February p	2,507	895	432	282	179	337	298	69
1976 September-November	6,998	2,556	1,190	822	487	867	876	189
December-February 1977 p	7,533	2,724	1,346	840	527	972	912	196
Percentage change	+7½	+6½	+13	+2½	+8	+12	+4	+4

¶ See Note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

2 The adjustments described at note 1 are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports (table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analysis of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in tables 4 to 11 are available only on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analysis of the area and other commodity patterns of trade are based on the figures on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis in tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

3 Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in note 1 above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the total balance over three or more months.

4 Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take the sum of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly total gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

5 Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

6 Invisible trade (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers. The monthly figures are inevitably less precise than those for visible trade for several reasons; the data are not available on a

TABLE 5 Exports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1976	25,778	1,694	776	1,255	21,347	10,126	7,062	2,224	840	3,047	2,347	934	4,092	707
1976 1st quarter	5,740	397	164	240	4,792	2,347	1,658	510	190	670	483	204	1,063	175
2nd quarter	6,310	406	182	286	5,229	2,514	1,741	553	203	733	575	223	1,228	170
3rd quarter	6,500	419	197	333	5,414	2,530	1,753	561	200	783	635	240	1,204	178
4th quarter	7,228	472	232	395	5,913	2,735	1,910	601	246	860	653	267	1,397	183
1976 December	2,493	164	78	132	2,051	946	670	194	94	296	225	94	499	57
1977 January r	2,534	174	84	152	2,053	915	669	189	66	295	228	97	536	61
February p	2,507	170	90	161	2,027	903	632	210	53	295	224	95	505	63
1976 Sep-Nov	6,998	458	224	379	5,738	2,658	1,840	605	212	836	642	257	1,332	199
Dec-Feb 1977 p	7,533	508	251	445	6,131	2,763	1,971	592	214	886	676	286	1,540	182
Percentage change	+7½	+11	+12	+18	+7	+4	+7	−2	+1	+6	+5½	+11	+16	−8½

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 6 Exports: volume indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1976	139.4	156	122	108	140	133	135	130	171	108	124	168
1976 1st quarter	135.4	160	118	92	137	134	137	129	164	98	116	160
2nd quarter	140.3	151	119	104	141	135	135	130	167	110	122	173
3rd quarter	137.3	152	118	114	139	130	132	124	171	114	126	161
4th quarter	144.6	161	131	121	144	134	134	136	180	111	130	176
1976 December	146.6	163	130	121	147	134	138	130	182	117	135	185
1977 January r	144.9	167	138	133	144	128	136	115	174	120	135	194
February p	143.1	170	149	133	141	126	127	119	175	113	131	181
1976 Sep-Nov	142.7	160	129	119	143	133	133	134	177	110	129	172
Dec-Feb 1977 p	144.9	167	139	129	144	129	134	121	177	117	134	187
Percentage change	+1½	+4	+8	+8½	+1	−3	+½	−9½	–	+6½	+4	+8½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

7 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in tables 5 and 8. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

For imports, the average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

The figures of value of crude oil exports have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 5. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

8 Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply).

Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to

TABLE 7 Exports: unit value indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1976	240.1	213	240	553	234	245	250	234	238	228	202	221
1976 1st quarter	218.9	192	211	496	214	224	231	210	219	206	185	199
2nd quarter	234.3	211	229	530	229	242	248	230	232	216	196	213
3rd quarter	247.4	220	249	553	242	254	258	246	245	233	207	226
4th quarter	261.7	229	262	608	256	269	273	260	259	247	222	239
1976 December	266.9	231	264	619	261	277	281	268	265	248	228	242
1977 January r	272.6	235	272	625	267	283	286	279	269	253	230	248
February p	273.8	237	274	645	268	282	287	271	271	256	236	249
1976 Sep-Nov	256.6	227	259	590	251	263	267	254	254	244	216	235
Dec-Feb 1977 p	271.1	234	270	630	265	281	285	273	269	252	231	246
Percentage change	+5½	+3½	+4½	+7	+6	+7	+6½	+7½	+6	+3½	+7	+5

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 8 Imports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
									Machinery and transport equipment†					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1976	31,213	4,993	5,652	11,296	3,223	2,000	6,073	8,860	6,389	4,637	1,398	354	2,471	412
1976 1st quarter	6,681	1,070	1,301	2,418	678	431	1,309	1,821	1,270	909	265	95	551	96
2nd quarter	7,678	1,250	1,346	2,735	760	486	1,489	2,151	1,572	1,180	325	99	579	117
3rd quarter	8,110	1,266	1,493	2,904	856	515	1,532	2,344	1,716	1,255	392	64	628	107
4th quarter	8,744	1,406	1,511	3,239	929	568	1,743	2,543	1,831	1,293	416	96	713	92
1976 December	2,907	439	501	1,071	306	189	576	858	619	442	139	26	239	31
1977 January r	3,230	502	554	1,248	364	224	661	933	651	434	156	40	282	37
February p	2,855	477	391	1,106	319	205	581	859	612	418	152	38	247	32
1976 Sep-Nov	8,651	1,418	1,522	3,192	922	562	1,708	2,469	1,779	1,245	432	89	691	98
Dec-Feb 1977 p	8,993	1,418	1,446	3,425	989	619	1,818	2,651	1,882	1,295	447	104	769	100
Percentage change	+4	–	−5	+7½	+7	+10	+6½	+7½	+6	+4	+3½	+17	+11	+2½

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates. † Includes North Sea production installations.

include North Sea oil production installations, however, no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

9 Definition of areas. The areas used in Tables 4 and 9 comprise the following countries:
EEC – West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark and Irish Republic.
Rest of Western Europe – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Austria, Andorra, Vatican City, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part).

North America – USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, Greenland, St Pierre and Miquelon.

Other Developed Countries – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.

Centrally Planned Economies – Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, China, North Korea, Outer Mongolia and Vietnam.

Oil Exporting Countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria,

TABLE 9 Imports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

		Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economies
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1976	31,213	11,396	4,584	4,219	2,124	4,210	3,514	1,133
1976 1st quarter	6,681	2,436	987	882	430	933	764	277
2nd quarter	7,678	2,887	1,083	1,023	498	964	869	301
3rd quarter	8,110	2,828	1,231	1,122	578	1,179	912	274
4th quarter	8,744	3,245	1,283	1,191	619	1,135	969	282
1976 December	2,907	1,110	452	374	208	381	310	96
1977 January r	3,230	1,168	491	435	207	392	406	136
February p	2,855	1,072	417	443	229	271	357	90
1976 Sep-Nov	8,651	3,152	1,230	1,216	603	1,150	973	276
Dec-Feb 1977 p	8,993	3,349	1,359	1,252	644	1,044	1,073	322
Percentage change	+4	+6	+10	+3	+6½	−9	+10	+17

¶ See note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 10 Imports: volume indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment†			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1976	133.5	101	87	127	93	150	145	196	197	186	241	193
1976 1st quarter	126.4	95	89	124	90	143	142	182	177	166	222	195
2nd quarter	134.1	101	87	126	92	148	144	193	196	189	244	186
3rd quarter	135.8	103	88	127	95	153	142	202	206	194	251	193
4th quarter	137.8	104	85	132	94	157	151	206	210	196	247	197
1976 December	134.5	98	82	128	91	155	147	205	210	197	241	190
1977 January r	151.5	110	95	152	108	183	173	229	225	204	278	238
February p	134.0	103	63	132	93	166	149	205	205	186	276	204
1976 Sep-Nov	139.9	107	87	133	97	160	151	207	209	193	262	200
Dec-Feb 1977 p	140.0	104	80	137	97	168	156	213	213	196	265	211
Percentage change	—	−3½	−7½	+3	+1	+5	+3½	+3	+2	+1	+1½	+5½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates. † Includes North Sea production installations.

TABLE 11 Imports: unit value indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
1976	288.6	247	704	239	260	267	217	237	232	227	253	249
1976 1st quarter	258.8	228	636	210	226	239	190	213	207	204	221	226
2nd quarter	281.4	243	686	230	248	262	210	234	230	225	251	242
3rd quarter	296.4	246	728	247	266	274	226	246	242	237	262	258
4th quarter	318.9	268	768	268	295	296	240	265	258	251	287	284
1976 December	323.9	271	778	274	307	298	244	268	259	253	287	289
1977 January r	323.8	275	776	274	307	303	244	263	257	247	298	278
February p	327.2	279	789	277	311	299	248	263	257	249	290	278
1976 Sep-Nov	311.3	262	755	260	283	289	235	259	253	246	282	276
Dec-Feb 1977 p	325.0	275	781	275	308	300	245	265	258	249	292	282
Percentage change	+4½	+5	+3½	+6	+9	+4	+4½	+2	+2	+1½	+3½	+2

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah, etc, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.
Other Developing Countries – All other countries.

10 Revised balance of payments adjustments. The figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis shown in tables 1 and 13 above have been revised as a result of a change in the treatment of dutiable goods imported for process or repair.

In the past it has been assumed that when such goods are imported for process or repair and for subsequent re-export no change in ownership takes place. Hence, as part of the coverage adjustments to put the trade figures on to a balance of payments basis, estimates of the values of these goods have been subtracted, equally, from both the imports and exports figures in the overseas trade statistics. A recent investigation, however, has shown that in almost all cases a change of ownership is involved. Consequently, it has been decided that dutiable goods for process or repair should now be included in the balance of payment figures. The values of both imports and exports, on a balance of payments basis, have, therefore, been increased by the amounts hitherto subtracted (by £806 million in 1976). The visible balance is unaffected by this change.

The export figures from January 1976 also now include an allowance of some £7 million a month to take account of a small amount of net under recording, revealed by the regular monitoring of the figures.

A 10-year back run of figures incorporating the above changes was given in an article on UK Overseas Trade in the fourth quarter and year of 1976 published in *Trade and Industry* on 4 and 11 March 1977. The issue of 4 March also included a slightly more detailed account of the changed treatment of goods for process or repair.

Overseas Trade Statistics

Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for February with cumulative totals will be published on 25 March* and further analysis of the figures will be found in tables 14.1 to 14.19 in the *Monthly Digest* for March†, due to be published in the second week of April.

Telephone inquiries concerning this article should be referred to: 01-215 3131 – value data and 01-215 3466 – indices.

* *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, published by HMSO, price £6.50 (Annual Subscription £93.60).

† *Monthly Digest of Statistics* published by HMSO, price £1.95 (Annual Subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage £27.86).

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶ On a Balance of Payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of visible trade	Imports				Exports		
		Total	Crude oil		Rest of Division 33	Total	Crude oil	Rest of Division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million tons	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1975	−3,106	3,827	3,069	85.6	35.9	758	721	30	691
1976	−3,964	5,126	4,092	85.7	47.8	1,034	1,162	177	985
1975 1st quarter	−774	949	759	22.2	34.3	190	175	7	168
2nd quarter	−682	840	696	20.7	33.8	144	158	2	156
3rd quarter	−785	976	800	22.4	35.6	176	191	5	186
4th quarter	−865	1,062	814	20.3	40.2	248	197	16	181
1976 1st quarter	−960	1,179	929	21.5	43.4	250	219	18	201
2nd quarter	−957	1,219	956	20.6	46.5	263	262	25	237
3rd quarter	−1,043	1,355	1,080	21.8	49.6	275	312	44	268
4th quarter	−1,004	1,373	1,127	21.8	51.9	246	369	90	279
1976 December	−331	455	370	7.0	52.6	85	124	29	95
1977 January	−357	501	389	7.4	52.3	112	144	43	101
February p	−204	354	285	5.4	53.3	69	150	51	99
1976 September-November	−1,032	1,386	1,135	22.4	50.7	251	354	80	274
December-February 1977 p	−892	1,310	1,044	19.8	52.8	266	418	123	295
Percentage change		−5½	−8	−12	+4	+6	+18	+56	+7½

p Provisional estimates. ¶ See note 7.

TABLE 13 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)
1975 r	19,922	19,922	−543	19,379	24,128	24,128	−1,580	+26	22,574
1976 r	25,778	25,778	−484	25,294	31,213	31,213	−2,005	−322	28,886
1975 1st quarter r	4,593	4,748	−104	4,644	5,883	5,950	−370	+11	5,591
2nd quarter r	4,942	4,722	−111	4,611	5,832	5,573	−375	+68	5,266
3rd quarter r	4,796	4,962	−154	4,808	5,998	6,190	−417	+2	5,775
4th quarter r	5,591	5,490	−174	5,316	6,415	6,415	−418	−55	5,942
1976 1st quarter r	5,818	5,740	−129	5,611	6,820	6,681	−435	−97	6,149
2nd quarter r	6,393	6,310	−101	6,209	7,776	7,678	−502	−48	7,128
3rd quarter r	6,260	6,500	−100	6,400	7,805	8,110	−525	−37	7,548
4th quarter r	7,307	7,228	−154	7,074	8,812	8,744	−543	−140	8,061
1976 September r	2,196	2,263	−43	2,220	2,734	2,814	−184	−49	2,581
October r	2,297	2,359	−52	2,306	2,811	2,849	−178	−47	2,624
November r	2,491	2,376	−57	2,320	3,109	2,988	−186	−27	2,775
December r	2 519	2,493	−45	2,448	2,891	2,907	−178	−67	2,662
1977 January	2,345	2,534	−62	2,472	3,015	3,230	−209	−17	3,004
February p	2,391	2,507	−74	2,432	2,743	2,856	−178	−57	2,621
1976 Sep-Nov	6,984	6,998	−152	6,846	8,654	8,651	−548	−122	7,980
Dec-Feb 1977 p	7,255	7,533	−181	7,352	8,649	8,993	−565	−141	8,287
Percentage change	+4	+7½		+7½	—	+4			+4

† Components and totals are rounded independently. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates (see note 10).

National Food Survey: Household food consumption in the fourth quarter of 1976 (October-December 1976)

The main results of the National Food Survey for the fourth quarter of 1976 are summarised in the accompanying tables. The estimates are derived from records provided between 28 September and 17 December, 1976, by a sample of 1,613 households throughout Great Britain.

Average expenditure on food bought for consumption in the home (excluding sweets and soft drinks) rose by 17p (3.8 per cent) compared with the previous quarter, to £4.67 per person per week. Freezer-owning households, however, reduced their weekly expenditure per head by 19p (4.0 per cent) to £4.54 in contrast to the previous quarter when they had, on average, been stocking or re-stocking their freezers. In other households, expenditure per head rose by 33p (7.5 per cent) to £4.73, representing an increase of about 2 per cent in the real value of their average food purchases, which increased in price by little more than 5 per cent.

Compared with the fourth quarter of 1975, average expenditure rose by 66p (16.5 per cent). The corresponding rise for freezer-owners was 56p (14.0 per cent) and for other households it was 72p (17.9p per cent). For these latter households the increase in expenditure was about 1½ per cent less than that in the general level of food prices paid by housewives and implies a fall in the real value of food purchases per head; this fall was almost entirely due to lower purchases of beef and potatoes than a year earlier.

Averaged over the fourth quarter, household consumption of liquid milk was almost the same as in the corresponding period of the previous year, at 4.67 pints per person per week. The price increase of 1p per pint on 5 September seems to have resulted temporarily in a slightly reduced level of consumption, but there were signs of recovery towards the end of the fourth quarter. Recorded average weekly purchases of condensed milk were unusually low at 0.12 pints (liquid equivalent). Average consumption of cheese, while higher than in the previous year, declined slightly from 3.79 oz in the previous quarter to 3.71 oz; most of the decline occurring towards the end of the quarter when the average price rose in real terms.

Although consumption of butter, margarine, cooking fats and cooking oils all increased compared with the previous quarter, in total the average of 11.40 oz per person per week was nearly 3 per cent lower than in the fourth quarter of 1975. The displacement of butter by margarine throughout 1976 resulted in household purchases of soft margarine moving ahead of those of other margarines, the averages for each type in the fourth quarter of 1976 being respectively 1.80 oz and 1.48 oz compared with 1.21 oz and 1.69 oz a year previously.

The continued weakening in demand for eggs, together with an increase of 7 per cent in their average price, led to a fall in consumption from 4.03 eggs per person per week in July-September, to 3.88 in October-December.

Household purchases of sugar at 11.93 oz per person per week continued to be well below the averages recorded prior to the shortage of 1974, and consumption of preserves appears to be levelling out at about 2¼ oz.

Average purchases of carcase meat fell to 14.05 oz per person per week in the fourth quarter of 1976. The decrease was entirely in purchases of beef and of lamb and was principally by freezer-owning households (now 28 per cent of households in the sample) which, on average, had recorded a build-up of their stocks in the previous quarter, when their purchases averaged 21.3 oz compared with 13.8 oz in the fourth quarter. In contrast, households without a freezer increased their purchases from 12.9 oz to 14.0 oz, the increase being entirely in beef and in pork; although their consumption of pork was thereby 0.75 oz greater than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, that of beef was 1.33 oz lower. Average consumption of all other meat and meat products at 22.5 oz was 0.3 oz less than in the previous quarter and the fourth quarter of 1975, decreases over the year for bacon, poultry and beef sausages not being fully offset by increases for frozen convenience meats and some meat products. The fall in consumption of bacon to 3.75 oz brought the average to its lowest level since 1951. The recorded decrease for poultry should be discounted since the fieldwork of the Survey ended seven days before Christmas in 1976 while, in the previous year, it continued until 23 December, and thereby picked up more of the Christmas purchases.

Consumption of fish fell from 4.80 oz per person per week in the previous quarter, to 4.62 oz, but was 0.28 oz greater than in the fourth quarter of 1975. The increase over the year was in consumption of frozen fish and frozen fish products, and was much greater for

TABLE 1 Estimates of average household food consumption

oz per person per week (a)

	Year 1975	Year 1976	4th quarter 1975	3rd quarter 1976	4th quarter 1976
Liquid milk (pints)	4.76	4.71	4.68	4.72	4.67
Other milk (eq. pints)	0.33	0.34	0.35	0.37	0.30
Cheese	3.79	3.79	3.56	3.79	3.71
Butter	5.63	5.16	5.56	4.96	5.11
Margarine	2.60	3.06	2.90	3.12	3.28
Lard and compound cooking fat	1.97	1.86	2.20	1.89	1.91
Eggs: purchases (number)	3.97	3.93	4.03	3.86	3.80
consumption (number)	4.14	4.08	4.14	4.03	3.88
Preserves	2.43	2.29	2.29	2.29	2.24
Sugar	11.29	12.20	12.75	13.08	11.93
Beef and veal	8.32	7.62	8.49	8.03	6.93
Mutton and lamb	4.25	4.20	4.14	4.37	3.87
Pork	2.73	2.89	3.08	3.08	3.26
Bacon and ham, uncooked	3.99	4.03	4.10	4.30	3.78
Bacon and ham, cooked (including canned)	1.00	0.99	0.90	1.13	1.01
Poultry and cooked chicken	5.73	6.00	6.40	6.01	5.92
Other cooked meat (not canned)	0.59	0.51	0.48	0.55	0.44
Other canned meat	2.21	2.32	2.30	2.52	2.34
Offals	1.15	1.15	1.24	0.94	1.28
Sausages, uncooked	3.22	3.29	3.56	3.40	3.34
Other meat products:					
meat pies and sausage rolls (ready-to-eat)	0.75	0.72	0.65	0.81	0.69
all others (not frozen)	2.21	2.13	2.21	2.09	2.22
Fish, fresh and processed	2.76	2.67	2.83	2.76	2.81
Canned fish	0.66	0.65	0.56	0.79	0.56
Fish and fish products, frozen	1.05	1.26	0.96	1.25	1.27
Fresh green vegetables	11.58	11.40	11.24	12.08	10.16
Tomatoes, fresh	3.87	3.94	3.36	6.66	3.11
Other fresh vegetables	9.92	10.58	11.24	10.02	11.31
Frozen vegetables	3.26	3.24	2.54	3.48	3.11
Canned tomatoes	0.98	1.06	0.93	0.99	0.86
Canned peas	2.76	2.84	2.69	2.96	2.89
Canned beans	3.83	3.99	4.32	3.90	4.07
Potatoes (excluding processed)					
purchases	41.08	31.84	45.62	29.69	36.33
consumption	43.90	35.30	48.61	36.39	40.03
Citrus fruit	4.92	4.73	3.56	3.12	3.59
Bananas	2.87	2.89	2.57	3.12	2.63
Apples	6.77	7.44	7.97	7.08	8.50
All other fresh fruit	2.95	3.25	2.01	6.55	2.30
Canned fruit	3.75	3.56	3.69	3.97	3.23
Dried fruit, nuts and fruit and nut products	1.27	1.42	2.17	1.20	2.29
Flour	5.16	6.02	5.37	5.88	6.81
White bread	27.68	26.43	27.87	26.74	25.24
Brown, wholewheat and wholemeal bread	3.30	3.60	3.31	3.75	3.77
Other bread	2.69	3.14	2.61	3.31	3.24
Buns, scones and teacakes	1.12	1.11	1.26	0.92	1.29
Cakes and pastries	3.12	2.85	3.15	3.00	3.12
Chocolate biscuits	0.95	0.99	1.02	0.89	1.04
Other biscuits	4.64	4.63	4.74	4.77	4.70
Breakfast cereals	3.05	3.25	2.89	3.53	3.00
Oatmeal and oat products	0.50	0.49	0.67	0.38	0.64
Canned milk puddings	1.56	1.53	1.73	1.71	1.58
Tea	2.18	2.21	2.24	2.31	2.13
Instant coffee	0.50	0.51	0.51	0.47	0.57
Canned soups	2.98	3.19	3.31	2.47	3.95
Pickles and sauces	1.71	1.66	1.84	1.59	1.71

(a) Except where otherwise stated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

freezer-owning households than for other households.

Supplies of potatoes were still well below normal. Household consumption averaged 40.0 oz per person per week in the fourth quarter compared with the more usual seasonal level of over 3 lb, while the average price paid by housewives remained at over 10p per lb. Purchases of frozen chips and other frozen potato products averaged 0.67 oz compared with 0.41 oz a year previously, the increase being mainly in freezer-owning households. Over the year there was very little change in consumption of other potato products. Consumption of fresh green vegetables averaged 10.16 oz compared with 11.24 oz in the fourth quarter of 1975, the main decreases being for sprouts and cauliflower, which were only partially offset by a marked increase in consumption of cabbage. There was little overall change in consumption of other fresh vegetables but some increase in purchases of frozen vegetables and of some varieties of canned vegetables.

Consumption of fresh fruit averaged 17.30 oz per person per week compared with 16.11 oz a year earlier, the increase being due to greater purchases of apples and pears; reduced purchases of canned fruit were largely offset by increased purchases of fruit juices and of fruit and nut products.

There was a further small shift away from white loaves to brown, wholemeal and wholewheat breads: purchases of flour have taken an upward course since the middle of 1975. Purchases of biscuits and of flour confectionery were much the same as in the fourth quarter of 1975. After allowing for seasonal changes, there was some further slight displacement of oatmeal and oat products, by ready-to-eat breakfast cereals.

Purchases of tea dropped sharply in the fourth quarter to 2.13 oz per person per week and the average price paid by housewives increased from 48p per lb in the previous quarter to 63p; only half of this increase in price can be attributed to removal of the subsidy. There was a further increase in the average price paid for instant coffee from 196p per lb to 214p, but average purchases nonetheless rose to a record high level of 0.57 oz per person per week, perhaps in anticipation of publicised prospective price increases.

For the nutrients evaluated in the National Food Survey, meat makes an important contribution to intakes of energy, protein, iron, and the B-vitamins thiamin, riboflavin and nicotinic acid. Table 3 shows, however, that the decline in purchases of most meats had very little effect on the nutritional adequacy of the diet as a whole. For freezer-owning households, the meat bought in the previous quarter would have compensated for the reduced quantities of these nutrients obtained in the fourth quarter of the year. Intakes of vitamin C were seasonally lower, mainly because of the reduced levels in potatoes at this time of the year. Intakes of vitamin A were, however, higher than for many years because of the amount of carrots, and especially of liver, which were purchased.

Families with four or more children obtained as much, or more, of every nutrient in 1976 than in 1975, except for vitamin C which declined with the reduced quantities of potatoes obtained.

TABLE 2 Estimates of average household food expenditure

per person per week

	Year 1975	Year 1976	4th quarter 1975	3rd quarter 1976	4th quarter 1976
Total household food expenditure	£3.77	£4.41	£4.01	£4.50	£4.67
	p	p	p	p	p
Liquid milk	30.47	40.80	36.08	40.54	43.72
Other milk	3.59	4.36	3.51	4.95	4.03
Cheese	10.38	12.06	10.53	12.11	12.56
Butter	9.95	12.74	10.73	13.17	14.78
Margarine	3.90	4.67	4.22	4.74	5.22
Lard and compound cooking fat	2.47	2.22	2.73	2.25	2.37
Eggs	12.54	14.04	13.41	13.79	14.52
Preserves	3.56	3.48	3.56	3.53	3.51
Sugar	9.38	8.87	9.07	9.42	8.92
Beef and veal	32.51	35.78	35.37	36.70	36.59
Mutton and lamb	13.12	15.43	12.93	16.73	15.72
Pork	9.61	11.37	11.28	11.62	13.53
Bacon and ham, uncooked	15.58	18.35	17.16	19.17	17.85
Bacon and ham, cooked (including canned)	5.44	6.14	5.27	7.26	6.29
Poultry and cooked chicken	12.24	14.58	13.87	15.32	15.92
Other cooked meat (not canned)	2.64	2.60	2.28	2.84	2.36
Other canned meat	6.18	7.28	6.56	8.38	7.57
Offals	3.22	3.36	3.50	2.89	3.82
Sausages, uncooked	6.92	8.16	8.02	8.52	8.71
Other meat products:					
meat pies and sausage rolls (ready-to-eat)	1.81	2.05	1.69	2.37	2.08
All others (not frozen)	6.01	7.01	6.26	6.93	7.93
Fish, fresh and processed	9.58	10.64	10.35	11.02	12.01
Canned fish	2.82	2.80	2.38	3.45	2.50
Fish and fish products, frozen	3.31	4.80	3.21	4.73	5.22
Fresh green vegetables	6.32	6.66	5.92	6.64	6.01
Tomatoes, fresh	5.31	5.31	3.54	5.83	3.21
Other fresh vegetables	6.55	7.89	6.52	7.20	8.26
Frozen vegetables	4.25	5.31	3.72	5.49	5.57
Canned tomatoes	0.97	1.00	0.91	0.89	0.85
Canned peas	2.03	2.31	2.11	2.40	2.50
Canned beans	3.14	3.48	3.52	3.47	3.62
Potatoes (excluding processed)	13.64	21.27	17.75	17.33	23.37
Citrus fruit	3.72	4.13	3.20	2.90	3.87
Bananas	2.62	2.86	2.34	3.19	2.65
Apples	5.38	5.75	5.09	5.23	6.02
All other fresh fruit	2.72	3.01	1.94	6.31	2.12
Canned fruit	4.41	4.64	4.50	5.32	4.47
Dried fruit, nuts and fruit and nut products	2.53	2.98	4.22	2.53	4.90
Flour	2.11	2.46	2.16	2.42	2.94
White bread	16.42	17.50	16.72	17.86	18.12
Brown, wholewheat and wholemeal bread	2.47	3.13	2.55	3.26	3.57
Other bread	3.66	4.30	3.76	4.53	4.44
Buns, scones and teacakes	1.85	2.03	2.07	1.77	2.30
Cakes and pastries	7.74	7.85	8.41	8.27	9.01
Chocolate biscuits	3.08	3.48	3.30	3.18	3.84
Other biscuits	8.04	8.53	8.70	8.91	8.97
Breakfast cereals	4.95	5.59	4.81	6.14	5.27
Oatmeal and oat products	0.50	0.53	0.65	0.38	0.75
Canned milk puddings	1.12	1.23	1.31	1.41	1.33
Tea	6.00	7.04	6.48	6.97	8.38
Instant coffee	4.19	5.94	4.41	5.70	7.62
Canned soups	2.62	3.08	3.04	2.42	4.01
Pickles and sauces	2.51	2.80	2.80	2.66	3.07
Other foods	29.26	35.38	30.19	36.78	38.10

TABLE 3 Nutritional value of household food as a percentage of recommended intakes (a) (b)

	National averages					Households with four or more children		
	Year 1975	Year 1976	4th quarter 1975	3rd quarter 1976	4th quarter 1976	Year 1975	Year 1976	Averages of the October-December quarters in the three most recent years
Energy	96	95	98	97	97	88	91	92
Protein	120	121	121	123	121	106	109	107
Calcium	186	184	185	186	185	155	160	161
Iron	105	103	108	104	105	91	92	92
Thiamin	122	122	122	126	123	121	123	123
Riboflavin	126	126	127	127	125	124	126	124
Nicotinic acid equivalent	185	184	189	188	185	177	176	175
Vitamin C	177	166	165	200	152	154	138	151
Vitamin A (retinol equivalent)	198	212	216	197	225	183	204	198
Vitamin D (c)	82	83	83	87	83	65	70	67

(a) Department of Health and Social Security. *Recommended Intakes of Nutrients for the United Kingdom*. Reports on Public Health and Medical Subjects. No. 120, HMSO, 1969.
(b) All values make allowance for wastage in the home of 10 per cent of the edible portion of food bought, and for expected losses of nutrients during cooking.
(c) The survey does not evaluate welfare and pharmaceutical sources of this (or any other) vitamin. Furthermore, most adults need no dietary Vitamin D, since they obtain all they need from the action of sunlight on the skin.

Production of man-made fibres in December

In the three months ended December 1976 the volume of production of man-made fibres, seasonally adjusted, was estimated to have been 4 per cent more than in the three months ended September 1976. Total production by weight of man-made fibres in 1976 was 10 per cent higher than in 1975, output of both continuous filament and staple fibre increased by 10 per cent.

Man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tons

		Total	Continuous filament (singles)	Staple fibre
1968		539.1	241.8	297.4
1969		553.9	252.5	301.5
1970		599.4	257.6	341.9
1971		613.1	276.4	336.7
1972		626.5	264.0	362.5
1973		730.8	305.6	425.3
1974		627.6	271.0	356.6
1975		562.5	246.5	316.0
1976		618.4	270.7	347.7
1975	1st quarter	129.1	56.4	72.7
	2nd quarter	148.8	61.9	86.9
	3rd quarter	134.1	58.5	75.7
	4th quarter	150.4	69.7	80.7
1976	1st quarter	159.8	70.0	89.8
	2nd quarter	157.5	69.7	87.7
	3rd quarter	140.4	62.4	78.0
	4th quarter	160.7	68.6	92.1
1975	January	42.1	18.2	24.0
	February	42.6	17.6	25.0
	March	44.3	20.6	23.7
	April	48.1	20.0	28.1
	May	53.6	22.3	31.4
	June	47.0	19.6	27.4
	July	47.0	19.3	27.7
	August	40.8	17.9	22.8
	September	46.3	21.2	25.1
	October	55.1	24.0	31.1
	November	49.1	23.6	25.5
	December	46.2	22.1	24.1
1976	January	53.3	24.1	29.2
	February	52.3	22.6	29.7
	March	54.1	23.2	30.9
	April	53.1	22.1	31.0
	May	53.6	23.9	28.6
	June	51.8	23.7	28.0
	July	46.7	21.1	25.6
	August	43.8	19.5	24.3
	September	49.9	21.8	28.1
	October	53.0	22.7	30.3
	November	54.3	23.3	31.0
	December	53.4	22.6	30.8

Index of the volume of production

1970 = 100

		Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1968		87	
1969		92	
1970		100	
1971		106	
1972		107	
1973		127	
1974		111	
1975		101	
1976		112	
1975	1st quarter	92	92
	2nd quarter	104	102
	3rd quarter	96	100
	4th quarter	112	109
1976	1st quarter	116	116
	2nd quarter	115	113
	3rd quarter	104	109
	4th quarter	115	113
1975	January	85	87
	February	95	94
	March	96	94
	April	103	97
	May	111	110
	June	98	98
	July	95	98
	August	89	100
	September	103	103
	October	116	106
	November	114	111
	December	105	112
1976	January	116	121
	February	118	117
	March	113	110
	April	115	107
	May	114	113
	June	117	118
	July	105	107
	August	96	108
	September	111	110
	October	113	102
	November	120	116
	December	113	121

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Quarterly analysis of man-made fibre production

Production by weight of synthetic fibres in the fourth quarter of 1976 was 5 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1975 while production of viscose and acetate fibres was 11 per cent more. Within the total for synthetic fibres, production of continuous filament yarns was 5 per cent less and staple fibre increased by 16 per cent. Under the heading 'viscose and acetate' production of continuous filament yarns increased by 10 per cent and staple fibre increased by 11 per cent compared with the fourth quarter 1975.

In the year 1976 production by weight of synthetic fibres was 15 per cent more than in 1975 and production of viscose and acetate fibres was 1 per cent more.

Analysis of man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tons

		Total		Continuous filament		Staple fibre	
		Synthetic	Viscose + acetate	Synthetic	Viscose + acetate	Synthetic	Viscose + acetate
1968		268.4	270.8	144.3	97.5	124.1	173.3
1969		291.4	262.5	155.9	96.6	135.5	166.0
1970		336.9	262.5	166.6	90.9	170.3	171.6
1971		357.3	255.7	191.2	85.2	166.1	170.6
1972		373.9	252.6	196.4	67.6	177.5	185.0
1973		453.9	277.0	233.0	72.6	220.9	204.4
1974		396.1	231.5	200.3	70.7	195.8	160.8
1975		361.1	201.4	184.0	62.5	177.1	138.9
1976		414.2	204.2	200.1	70.6	214.1	133.6
1974	1st quarter	105.3	68.7	52.4	17.6	52.9	51.1
	2nd quarter	104.6	70.5	51.3	20.4	53.4	50.1
	3rd quarter	101.5	48.4	48.9	18.2	52.5	30.2
	4th quarter	84.7	43.9	47.8	14.5	36.9	29.4
1975	1st quarter	78.3	50.8	41.7	14.7	36.6	36.1
	2nd quarter	93.5	55.3	45.9	16.0	47.6	39.3
	3rd quarter	87.2	46.9	43.6	14.9	43.6	32.0
	4th quarter	102.1	48.3	52.8	16.9	49.2	31.4
1976	1st quarter	104.2	55.6	52.0	18.0	52.2	37.6
	2nd quarter	105.1	52.4	52.0	17.7	53.1	34.7
	3rd quarter	97.8	42.6	46.2	16.2	51.6	26.4
	4th quarter	107.2	53.5	49.9	18.6	57.3	34.8

The heading 'Viscose + acetate' includes triacetate.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Deliveries of man-made fibres in the third quarter of 1976

Total deliveries of man-made fibres in the fourth quarter of 1976 was 20 per cent more than in the fourth quarter of 1975. Deliveries of continuous filament yarns to the home trade were 2 per cent more than in the fourth quarter of 1975, while deliveries of staple fibre were 23 per cent more.

In the year 1976 total deliveries of man-made fibres were 17 per cent more than in 1975.

Deliveries of continuous filament yarns (*a*)

Thousand metric tons

		Home						
	Total	Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Weft knitting	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres etc.)	Other purposes	Exports as yarn (*b*)
1968	238.4	188.9	35.3	4.7	54.9	32.0	52.2	9.8	49.4
1969	242.7	193.6	33.7	5.5	51.9	35.3	58.8	8.4	49.1
1970	254.8	198.1	28.2	7.1	63.7	38.0	53.3	7.8	56.7
1971	261.4	198.7	25.3	8.7	69.9	41.4	43.5	9.9	62.7

		Home							
	Total	Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres, etc.)	Other purposes	Textured or texturing for all purposes other than carpets or industrial	Exports as yarn (*b*)
1972	270.1	198.7	25.1	13.4	40.4	40.8	10.0	69.0	71.4
1973	313.6	227.5	25.8	19.4	46.6	45.4	13.0	77.4	86.1
1974	259.4	188.6	22.3	14.1	35.8	35.1	11.9	69.3	70.8
1975	246.9	185.8	21.7	17.3	33.1	35.4	10.5	67.8	61.1
1976	271.2	192.4	19.5	22.2	31.1	38.3	14.8	66.6	78.8
1974 1st quarter	72.7	50.9	4.8	4.0	10.8	9.0	3.1	19.2	21.7
2nd quarter	71.9	51.8	6.2	4.4	9.9	9.6	3.2	18.5	20.1
3rd quarter	59.4	43.6	5.7	3.2	8.4	7.4	3.0	15.9	15.8
4th quarter	55.4	42.3	5.6	2.5	6.7	9.1	2.6	15.7	13.1
1975 1st quarter	58.1	43.8	5.3	3.6	7.9	9.1	2.0	15.9	14.4
2nd quarter	62.7	48.2	6.3	4.3	8.6	9.2	2.5	17.3	14.6
3rd quarter	57.5	43.5	4.8	3.7	8.0	8.1	2.8	16.2	14.0
4th quarter	68.6	50.3	5.3	5.8	8.6	9.0	3.1	18.4	18.2
1976 1st quarter	71.4	50.7	5.0	5.9	9.1	10.5	3.7	16.6	20.6
2nd quarter	66.6	46.7	4.9	4.8	7.5	9.3	3.4	16.7	19.9
3rd quarter	62.5	43.5	4.4	5.2	6.7	8.5	3.3	15.5	19.0
4th quarter	70.7	51.4	5.2	6.3	7.8	10.0	4.4	17.8	19.3

(*a*) The classification of end uses was revised in January 1968 and the figures for deliveries to individual industries 1968 to 1971 might not be fully comparable with those for earlier years. From January 1972 a further reclassification was introduced: deliveries of textured yarns and yarns for texturing, which were previously included in the figures for individual industries, are shown separately from the first quarter 1972.

(*b*) The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly trade accounts.

Deliveries of staple fibre (*a*)

Thousand metric tons

		Home					
	Total	Total	Cotton spinning	Wool spinning	Flax spinning	Other systems and sundries	Exports (*b*)
1968	282.4	173.1	52.3	58.2	26.3	36.3	109.3
1969	299.3	169.2	51.1	51.5	28.0	38.6	130.1
1970	329.4	191.4	57.6	57.1	31.5	45.2	138.1
1971	338.7	185.9	59.6	50.1	29.3	46.9	152.9

		Home					
	Total	Total	Cotton spinning	Wool spinning	Other systems and sundries	Exports (*b*)	
1972	363.9	186.4	49.5	33.4	103.5	177.5	
1973	434.8	235.4	62.8	56.0	116.7	199.4	
1974	346.1	190.4	51.4	51.1	87.9	155.7	
1975	283.2	158.8	39.4	50.1	69.3	124.4	
1976	351.3	184.6	47.0	53.0	84.6	166.7	
1974 1st qtr.	103.8	48.3	12.6	13.0	22.6	55.5	
2nd qtr.	103.2	59.7	16.5	14.9	28.3	43.5	
3rd qtr.	83.4	45.1	11.5	12.1	21.5	38.3	
4th qtr.	55.8	37.3	10.9	11.0	15.4	18.4	
1975 1st qtr.	72.8	36.5	8.6	12.2	15.7	36.3	
2nd qtr.	75.8	43.6	10.4	14.0	19.2	32.2	
3rd qtr.	58.3	36.1	9.5	9.9	16.7	22.2	
4th qtr.	76.4	42.6	10.9	13.9	17.7	33.8	
1976 1st qtr.	83.2	44.4	11.5	12.5	20.5	38.8	
2nd qtr.	86.7	46.7	11.9	13.0	21.8	40.0	
3rd qtr.	78.4	41.3	10.8	12.9	17.5	37.1	
4th qtr.	103.1	52.2	12.8	14.7	24.7	50.9	

(*a*) The classification of end uses was revised in January 1972, and the figures for deliveries to individual industries from the first quarter 1972 are not comparable with those for earlier years.

(*b*) The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly trade accounts.

Detailed statistics of UK overseas trade

Each month the Overseas Trade Statistics give a considerable amount of detail about United Kingdom imports, exports of commodities and, for many of them, the most important countries. The information in these statistics is a summary of much more detailed information. This is derived from declarations made by traders to HM Customs and Excise under the descriptions in the Tariff and Overseas Trade Classification (which has over 11,000 commodity headings); there are 199 specified countries.

The fully detailed information is not published on a monthly basis but, when circumstances allow, HM Customs and Excise can supply detailed information about trade under individual descriptions of the Tariff and Overseas Trade Classsification and with individual countries or through United Kingdom ports, either for particular months or for longer periods. A charge is made which covers the cost of the service.

Applications should be made to the Statistical Office, Bill of Entry Section, HM Customs and Excise, 27 Victoria Avenue; Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6AL (Tel. Southend (0702) 49421, ext. 316 or 323 for Imports, or ext. 314 or 315 for Exports; Telex 99112 CUSEX Southend).

Hosiery and other knitted goods: index of production

In the three months ended December 1976 the volume of production of hosiery and other knitted goods, seasonally adjusted (including knitted fabrics), was provisionally estimated to have been 9 per cent more than in the three months ended December 1975.

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months. The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months, but not for other seasonal variations.

Hosiery and other knitted goods

1970 = 100

1968		88
1969		98
1970		100
1971		99
1972		99
1973		103
1974		100
1975		96
1976 p		101

Including warp knitting

		Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974	1st quarter	91	98
	2nd quarter	103	105
	3rd quarter	97	101
	4th quarter	108	95
1975	1st quarter	87	96
	2nd quarter	95	94
	3rd quarter	94	98
	4th quarter	109	97
1976	1st quarter	90	98
	2nd quarter	95	97
	3rd quarter p	100	104
	4th quarter p	118	105
1975	April	89	92
	May	92	95
	June	104	97
	July	84	97
	August	87	98
	September	109	98
	October	121	100
	November	123	101
	December	84	90
1976	January	85	106
	February	94	97
	March	91	90
	April	92	101
	May	98	100
	June	96	89
	July p	92	106
	August p	96	107
	September p	112	100
	October p	132	109
	November p	126	103
	December p	97	105

p = provisional.

Inquiries: Tel. 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Production in the cotton industry

Statistics issued by the Textile Statistics Bureau show that in the year 1976 the amount of cloth woven was 3 per cent less than in 1975. Production of single yarn increased by 9 per cent and doubled yarn increased by 3 per cent.

Production in the cotton industry

Annual totals and weekly averages

		Single yarn (†)		Doubled yarn		Woven cloth	
		Cotton yarn (‡)	Spun man-made yarns and mixture yarn, inc. waste	Cotton yarn	Other	Cotton	Man-made fibre and mixtures
		million kg.				million metres	
1968		171.2	67.5	49.9	52.0	668.2	507.3
1969		166.2	73.2	46.8	60.9	661.5	538.1
1970		158.7	77.4	43.2	57.3	627.6	484.3
1971		133.0	83.3	85.0		559.1	479.8
1972		121.4	81.7	75.4		513.0	469.8
1973		115.4	92.5	82.1		453.2	502.3
1974		101.3	87.7	74.7		409.5	505.3
1975		94.4	76.4	68.4		405.4	503.0
1976		106.9	76.1	69.4		374.5	492.9
1975	January*	1.8	1.5	1.4		8.2	9.7
	February	1.9	1.6	1.5		8.8	10.7
	March	1.7	1.3	1.3		8.3	9.7
	April*	1.8	1.6	1.2		7.7	9.4
	May	2.1	1.7	1.5		8.1	10.0
	June	1.7	1.6	1.3		8.7	10.1
	July*	1.5	1.1	1.1		5.4	7.2
	August	1.9	1.5	1.3		8.0	9.4
	September	1.4	1.0	1.1		6.4	8.8
	October*	2.1	1.6	1.4		8.5	10.9
	November	2.1	1.6	1.4		8.7	10.9
	December*	1.5	1.2	1.0		5.7	7.8
1976	January	2.3	1.5	1.4		8.6	11.0
	February	2.2	1.4	1.4		8.3	10.8
	March*	2.3	1.5	1.4		8.3	10.5
	April	1.9	1.4	1.2		6.6	8.7
	May	2.4	1.7	1.5		8.0	10.5
	June*	1.7	1.3	1.1		7.0	8.7
	July	1.8	1.3	1.2		4.3	6.8
	August	2.1	1.6	1.4		7.3	9.0
	September*	1.8	1.3	1.2		6.4	8.7
	October	2.3	1.7	1.6		7.9	10.6
	November	2.4	1.7	1.6		7.9	10.7
	December*	1.7	1.3	1.1		6.0	8.2

(†) Spun in the cotton industry. (‡) Including yarns wholly of cotton waste and mixture yarn of cotton and cotton waste. * Average of five weeks.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

Output in the wool textile industry

The volume of production in the wool textile industry (as measured by the seasonally adjusted index of production) in December 1976 was 1 per cent less than in December 1975. Statistics issued by the Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics show that in the year 1976 woven fabrics (excluding blankets) were 6 per cent lower than in 1975; deliveries of worsted yarns (excluding semi-worsted yarn) were 8 per cent higher. Production of wool and hair tops was 21 per cent more and that of man-made fibre tops was 7 per cent more.

Output in the wool textile industry

	Consumption	Production			Deliveries			
	Raw wool (clean weight)	Tops		Woollen yarn (†)	Worsted yarn (§)	Woven fabrics (excluding blankets) (‡)		Blankets (†)
		Wool and hair	Man-made fibres			Woollen	Worsted	
	million kilos					million sq. metres		
1968	177.5	96.6	36.4	147.4	98.2	135.8	110.6	27.3
1969	174.5	92.0	42.2	142.2	100.5	130.1	109.2	26.9
1970	153.1	79.7	44.6	129.4	97.6	115.5	99.8	24.6
1971	141.2	66.2	36.6	130.7	93.0	101.9	83.9	28.5
1972	152.3	75.1	45.9	130.9	101.6	99.8	83.7	28.8
1973	136.6	62.2	55.9	135.2	100.0	104.0	88.4	30.6
1974	112.6	43.9	54.8	122.5	87.2	92.1	82.6	28.1
1975	110.6	46.8	44.4	112.1	75.5	76.8	74.6	24.7
1976		56.5	47.2	108.0	80.8	73.6	69.4	22.8
1975 1st quarter	27.3	11.2	12.8	29.4	20.4	17.7	20.7	7.6
2nd quarter	29.1	11.9	12.7	29.7	19.4	22.5	19.2	5.0
3rd quarter	25.5	11.4	9.2	24.6	15.7	19.8	17.1	5.7
4th quarter	28.7	12.3	9.6	28.4	19.9	16.8	17.6	6.4
1976 1st quarter	31.0	13.8	11.6	29.4	20.6	16.9	18.2	6.5
2nd quarter	30.5	14.5	12.1	27.9	20.3	19.6	16.9	4.4
3rd quarter	27.6	13.4	10.6	23.7	18.2	19.4	16.9	5.2
4th quarter		14.6	13.0	27.0	21.7	17.9	17.5	6.5
1975 April	9.6	4.1	4.5	9.8	6.9	7.0	6.5	1.8
May	9.3	3.5	3.7	9.9	6.0	7.2	6.3	1.7
June	10.2	4.3	4.5	10.0	6.4	8.2	6.4	1.6
July	9.0	4.5	3.8	8.0	5.1	6.7	6.4	1.9
August	7.0	2.7	2.2	7.5	4.7	5.9	4.5	1.7
September	9.5	4.2	3.2	9.1	5.9	7.2	6.2	2.1
October	9.7	4.0	3.6	9.9	7.2	6.6	6.4	2.1
November	9.7	4.3	3.6	9.2	6.5	5.4	5.7	1.9
December	9.3	4.0	2.4	9.3	6.2	4.8	5.5	2.4
1976 January	10.0	4.5	4.3	9.5	6.4	5.1	5.8	2.6
February	9.6	4.2	3.2	9.2	6.6	5.3	5.9	1.9
March	11.4	5.1	4.1	10.7	7.6	6.5	6.5	2.0
April	10.4	5.0	3.9	9.5	7.0	5.7	5.5	1.5
May	10.2	4.8	4.6	9.3	7.0	7.0	5.6	1.4
June	9.9	4.7	3.6	9.1	6.3	6.9	5.8	1.5
July	8.7	4.6	3.8	7.1	5.9	6.1	5.6	1.5
August	8.3	3.5	2.8	7.7	5.3	6.0	4.6	1.7
September	10.6	5.3	4.0	8.9	7.0	7.3	6.7	2.0
October	10.5	4.9	4.9	9.4	7.9	7.1	6.0	2.2
November		5.4	4.4	9.6	7.7	6.0	6.2	2.2
December		4.3	3.7	8.0	6.1	4.8	5.3	2.1

(†) Estimated. (‡) Woven woollen fabrics include fabrics which are mainly woollen by weight of components and, similarly, woven worsted fabrics include fabrics which are mainly worsted by weight of components. (§) From January 1969 includes semi-worsted yarn: previously yarn of this type was not separately distinguished and the small quantities involved were divided between the woollen and worsted yarn headings. In December deliveries of semi-worsted yarn were 0.6 million kilos.

Exports of wool textile products

	Total	Wool tops (a)		Yarns		Woven fabrics (‡)		Other wool textile products (†)
	£m	£m	Mn kilos	£m	Mn kilos	£m	Mn sq. m	£m
1968	114.80	23.94	25.44	20.44	14.34	66.14	69.42	4.28
1969	125.41	26.55	26.01	23.32	16.08	71.08	69.46	4.45
1970	117.25	20.38	21.08	23.37	15.85	70.00	62.51	3.50
1971	106.82	16.28	18.66	23.28	15.88	62.57	54.30	4.70
1972	118.49	19.80	20.51	27.28	18.13	66.48	56.32	4 93
1973	172.32	38.06	21.36	36.95	18.28	91.08	60.39	6.24
1974	180.44	26.15	16.15	41.56	15.56	105.84	52.80	6.89
1975	165.22	28.53	16.19	37.42	13.83	92.08	43.33	7.20
1976	219.07	50.55	20.71	56.03	17.04	104.28	44.58	8.21
1974 1st quarter	45.05	8.55	..	10.47	4.20	24.44	13.50	1.58
2nd quarter	51.23	7.82	..	12.08	4.52	29.52	14.63	1.81
3rd quarter	42.27	4.86	..	9.56	3.43	26.23	12.84	1.62
4th quarter	41.90	4.92	..	9.45	3.41	25.66	11.84	1.88
1975 1st quarter	36.93	5.19	4.04	8.33	3.07	21.79	10.43	1.62
2nd quarter	42.17	6.97	3.30	9.36	3.54	24.27	10.77	1.57
3rd quarter	41.80	7.98	4.47	8.66	3.17	23.76	11.86	1.40
4th quarter	44.32	8.39	4.38	11.07	4.05	22.26	10.27	2.61
1976 1st quarter	43.48	10.96	5.06	11.13	4.04	19.52	9.30	1.87
2nd quarter	56.27	13.35	5.34	13.70	4.36	27.41	11.65	1.82
3rd quarter	55.38	11.64	4.42	13.57	3.98	28.22	12.21	1.95
4th quarter	63.94	14.59	5.89	17.64	4.66	29.14	11.42	2.57

(†) Wool or other animal hair, carded or combed; felts, wholly or partly of wool; blankets: travelling rugs; woollen and worsted felts; and other made-up textile articles, not individually specified in the Export List, of sheeps' or lambs' wool or fine animal hair.

Other commodities of, or containing, wool or animal hair not included in the above table; sheeps' or lambs' wool and fine or coarse animal hair not carded or combed; noils, rags and other waste; carpets; garments; smallwares; knitted or crocheted fabrics; woven fabrics predominantly of man-made fibres containing sheeps' or lambs' wool or fine animal hair.

(‡) Excluding mechanical cloths from January 1970.

(a) From the 1st quarter 1976 figures are not strictly comparable with previous periods.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Footwear industry: orders, deliveries and stocks

In the three months ended December 1976 deliveries were estimated to be 6 per cent higher, on a seasonally adjusted pairage basis, than in the three months ended September 1976. Net new orders were 31 per cent higher than in the previous three months, while at the end of December orders on hand were 21 per cent up on the September 1976 level. The index of output in the three months ended December 1976 was 5 per cent higher than in the three months ended September 1976.

A detailed breakdown of manufacturers' deliveries by type of footwear in pairage and value terms, together with figures of exports, imports, consumers' expenditure, prices and employment is published in the Business Monitor Production series under the reference PQ 450.

The index of output is calculated from the value of total sales and work done by firms classified to the footwear industry (Minimum List Heading 450 of the Standard Industrial Classification). In using the index numbers it should be borne in mind that when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant price value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent years.

The data on pairage and value relate to complete footwear only sold by manufacturers, classified to MLH 450 and to other industries (eg rubber) in the SIC, employing 25 or more persons.

Index of output: Orders on hand, net new orders, deliveries and stocks of complete footwear

Monthly averages or monthly totals

	Index of output 1970 = 100	Orders on hand (end period)		Net new orders			Deliveries			Stocks (end period)
		Million pairs	£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs
1966		33.6					16.4			
1967		37.8		16.5			16.1			
1968	113	41.6		17.3			17.0			
1969	108	34.6		15.9			16.5			
1970	100	38.9		16.6			16.2			
1971	108	32.5	55.7	15.7			16.2		23.8	19.4
1972	104	29.5	59.6	15.2		24.8	15.4		24.5	18.5
1973	108	46.2	85.2	17.1		30.5	15.7		28.4	16.5
1974	107	44.3	79.5	14.3		30.9	14.4		31.3	18.0
1975	101	38.8	91.8	13.2		36.2	13.7		35.1	15.8
1976	101	44.7	126.7	13.4		41.9	12.9		39.0	14.4
	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual
1975 1st quarter	106	36.2	63.2	11.9	11.0	31.3	14.6	14.6	36.7	18.3
2nd quarter	95	41.2	82.4	14.0	13.4	36.8	12.3	13.1	30.4	23.1
3rd quarter	101	33.1	70.0	11.4	13.9	33.1	14.1	13.8	37.2	17.4
4th quarter	101	38.8	91.8	15.5	14.6	43.4	13.6	13.4	36.1	15.8
1976 1st quarter	101	42.6	89.2	14.6	13.1	38.9	13.3	12.9	39.8	19.0
2nd quarter	99	46.3	107.5	12.8	12.8	40.4	11.5	12.4	34.3	20.9
3rd quarter	100	36.9	90.6	10.1	12.0	35.4	13.2	12.8	41.0	17.2
4th quarter p	105	44.7	126.7	16.2	15.7	52.9	13.6	13.5	40.9	14.4
1975 January	109	39.2	71.7	9.6	9.3	29.0	14.7	14.8	36.8	
February	110	33.8	63.2	9.4	8.9	29.1	14.8	14.7	37.6	
March	99	36.2	63.2	16.6	14.7	35.7	14.1	14.2	35.7	
April	91	40.3	75.2	17.2	13.1	43.8	13.1	12.9	31.9	
May	89	44.0	88.0	14.8	13.6	40.0	11.1	12.5	27.2	
June	105	41.2	82.4	9.9	13.5	26.5	12.8	13.9	32.1	
July	104	34.0	68.8	6.7	10.7	24.3	13.8	13.6	37.9	
August	98	33.0	67.5	11.3	15.5	30.0	12.3	13.6	31.3	
September	103	33.1	70.0	16.3	15.5	44.9	16.2	14.1	42.4	
October	102	38.5	87.2	21.8	16.2	59.9	16.4	13.6	42.8	
November	100	38.8	92.8	13.8	12.4	40.5	13.5	13.3	34.9	
December	102	38.8	91.8	10.9	15.4	29.7	11.0	13.2	30.6	
1976 January	105	38.9	88.2	13.2	13.4	33.9	13.1	13.8	37.6	
February	104	40.0	89.3	14.1	13.2	40.3	12.9	12.8	39.2	
March	94	42.6	89.2	16.5	12.8	42.5	13.9	12.1	42.6	
April	95	43.2	94.4	12.2	9.7	39.7	11.6	12.0	34.5	
May	103	48.0	108.4	15.9	15.4	47.0	11.1	13.1	33.0	
June	100	46.3	107.5	10.2	13.4	34.4	11.8	12.2	35.3	
July	95	40.8	91.5	6.3	10.4	21.3	11.8	12.2	37.3	
August	98	38.1	88.7	8.8	11.4	34.0	11.5	12.0	36.9	
September	106	36.9	90.6	15.1	14.2	50.8	16.3	14.1	48.9	
October	103	42.9	106.4	20.9	16.8	59.5	14.9	13.5	43.6	
November p	101	43.8	120.1	14.9	12.1	56.4	14.0	12.5	42.8	
December p	111	44.7	126.7	13.0	18.3	42.9	12.0	14.5*	36.3	

p = Provisional.
* Based on early returns, seasonally adjusted deliveries in January are estimated to be 12 million pairs.

Inquiries: 01-212 6787.

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Made-up clothing: orders and deliveries

In the three months ended December 1976, deliveries by the clothing industry were provisionally estimated to have been 1 per cent lower than in the preceding three months while net new orders were 2 per cent lower. Orders-on-hand at the end of December 1976 were 2 per cent higher than the end-September 1976 level. (These comparisons are based on the seasonally adjusted series in the accompanying table.)

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

Made-up clothing

Index numbers of total orders and deliveries

	Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders		Deliveries	
	December 1969 = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100	
1968	107		100		97	
1969	100		97		97	
1970	103		102		100	
1971	119		108		104	
1972	125		110		109	
1973	155		123		117	
1974	145		115		114	
1975	142		118		115	
1976	142		120		116	
	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974 1st quarter	164	161	111	115	107	108
2nd quarter	171	149	122	113	113	115
3rd quarter	137	143	96	113	115	117
4th quarter	145	145	129	118	122	118
1975 1st quarter	135	139	116	124	116	121
2nd quarter	165	151	133	119	114	112
3rd quarter	129	141	97	114	114	115
4th quarter	142	149	128	117	116	112
1976 1st quarter	126	130	109	113	113	114
2nd quarter p	154	140	131	120	110	113
3rd quarter p	134	147	106	126	118	120
4th quarter p	142	150	135	123	124	119
1974 April	171	163	133	122	115	114
May	182	155	134	109	108	113
June	171	149	100	107	117	118
July	156	149	85	113	112	116
August	143	143	86	112	105	118
September	137	143	116	114	129	116
October	142	140	150	115	141	120
November	152	141	153	122	130	118
December	145	145	85	116	96	115
1975 January	138	137	101	119	103	124
February	134	136	121	123	125	122
March	135	139	124	129	120	119
April	148	147	135	112	118	107
May	167	149	147	120	109	115
June	165	151	116	125	114	115
July	145	145	84	112	110	114
August	132	139	84	109	103	117
September	129	141	123	122	128	115
October	135	140	154	118	135	115
November	144	140	138	110	121	110
December	142	149	91	123	92	111
1976 January	129	128	94	111	102	123
February	128	130	115	117	116	113
March	126	130	117	111	119	107
April p	137	136	133	121	109	108
May p	157	140	155	127	116	123
June p	154	140	104	113	107	108
July p	143	143	99	133	114	118
August p	132	139	85	110	105	119
September p	134	147	134	133	136	123
October p	139	144	158	121	139	119
November p	146	141	149	118	129	118
December p	142	150	99	129	105	120

Inquiries: 01-212 0116.

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Regional selective assistance

The tables below show on a regional basis, the number and value of applications received and offers made under section 7 of the Industry Act during November and December 1976.

NOVEMBER 1976

Region	Applications received No.	Applications received Value (£'000)	Offers made No.	Offers made Value (£'000)
Scotland	11	4,977	16	1,229
Wales	9	879	7	438
Northern	14	5,849	5	56
North West	37	4,686	29	1,542
Yorkshire and Humberside	33	3,529	11	144
South West	4	652	7	146
East Midlands	2	153	9	143
West Midlands	—	—	—	—
Total	110	20,725	84	3,698

DECEMBER 1976

Region	Applications received No.	Applications received Value (£'000)	Offers made No.	Offers made Value (£'000)
Scotland	12	2,668	22	4,484
Wales	17	1,522	13	187
Northern	34	5,777	12	2,673
North West	21	26,251	16	9,025
Yorkshire and Humberside	19	1,742	20	551
South West	5	444	3	377
East Midlands	5	879	10	71
West Midlands	—	—	—	—
Total	113	39,283	96	17,368

Selective assistance under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972

Accelerated Projects Scheme

This was a selective scheme, announced in the Chancellor's budget speech in April 1975, to promote counter-cyclical industrial investment and modernisation which would not otherwise take place due to the adverse economic climate. The main criteria were that projects should be a net addition to the firm's capital investment programme; that they would be deferred but for government assistance; that they should be commercially sound; and that they should lead to an improvement in the balance of payments.

The table below shows offers made since 1 September 1975, against which a first payment was made to the company concerned in December 1976.

Company	Product/activity	Type of assistance (see notes at foot of table)	Amount of assistance committed £
North-West Region			
Trind Ltd	Industrial valves	IRG	47,000
Northern Region			
Robinson Brothers Ltd	Organic chemicals	L	450,000
London and South Eastern Region			
Dairy Tops Ltd	Ice cream, yoghurt	IRG	101,700

Notes: IRG – Interest Relief Grant. L – Loan.

Machine Tool Industry Scheme

The table shows offers of £5,000 or more made under the Machine Tool Industry Scheme against which a first payment to the company concerned was made between 1 October 1976 and 31 December 1976

Company	Amount of assistance committed £
Scotland	
Giddings and Lewis Fraser Ltd	137,600
West Midlands	
Cincinnati Milacron Ltd	105,000
East Midlands	
F. W. Moss Ltd	84,000
A. A. Jones and Shipman Ltd	363,000

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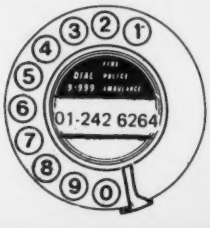

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